

Eastern Australia

Common names: **English:** Murray red gum **Luganda:** Kalitunsi.

Ecology: Widely distributed in its native Australia and one of the first *Eucalyptus* spp. to be used elsewhere, both in the Mediterranean and the tropics. Does well in semi-arid regions and tolerates a long dry season. It does well in deep silt or clay soil in eastern and northern Uganda and in dry parts of Southern Region, 900-1,800 m, and tolerates some salinity.

Uses: Firewood, charcoal, poles (power lines), posts, timber (construction), bee forage, ornamental, windbreak.

Description: A tall evergreen tree to 30 m, **deeply branched** but also with a long straight bole. **BARK:** white to brown, **thin and peeling in long strips;** when cut it exudes **red gum**. **LEAVES:** grey-blue, long and drooping, to 30 cm. **FLOWERS:** white clusters, short conical **bud caps**. **FRUIT:** very small rounded capsules on thin stalks, each less than 1 cm, 4 valves.

Propagation: Seedlings; plant out after 4-5 months in nursery.

Seed: No. of seeds per kg: 100,000-2,100,000.

treatment: not necessary.

storage: seed can be stored for a long time.

Management: Fast growing; coppicing, pollarding.

Remarks: Young trees require protection from termites. The species has been primarily introduced for quick-growing fuelwood. It is also useful for homestead plantation, woodlots and along roads. The timber is red, heavy and hard. Do not plant near crops because of root competition for water. All gum-tree flowers have much nectar and attract bees.

