

*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*

Myrtaceae

Eastern Australia

**English:** Red River gum**Nyanja:** Bulugamu**Senga:** Bulugamu

**Ecology:** One of the world's most widely planted trees, especially in subtropical and arid areas with a dry season of 4–8 months. Gums were introduced to Zambia about 1900 by missionaries and traders and now some 10 species are widely planted by the Forest Department. All are quick growing and the flowers which have much nectar are attractive to bees. This species grows from 0 to 1,500 m and is unsuitable for planting near gardens and crops due to root competition. It tolerates some waterlogging and salinity.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber, **poles, bee forage**, ornamental, **windbreak**.

**Description:** A tall well-branched tree, about 25 m but often rather crooked while young. **BARK:** white to brown, peeling in long strips; when cut it exudes red gum. **LEAVES:** grey-blue, **long and drooping to 30 cm**. Leaves on young trees different (wider) than the ones on older trees. **FLOWERS:** white clusters. Buds have **short conical caps**. **FRUIT:** **very small rounded capsules** on thin stalks, less than 1 cm.

**Propagation:** Seedlings.

**Seed:** No. of seeds per kg: 70,000–2,000,000. Germinate uniformly after 7–10 days.

**treatment:** Not necessary.

**storage:** Seed can be stored for many years.

**Management:** Coppicing, normally every 5 years, in Zambia. Protect young trees against livestock and termites. Fast growing on good sites.

**Remarks:** In boron-deficient areas growth is not good unless borate or sulphur are added. A high-input crop which grows best on fertile soils. Its main use is for construction poles. The timber is red, heavy and hard, easy to work but can warp and split when being seasoned. Red river gum can be used to reclaim swampy sites. Woodlots of this species should not be planted near dambos to avoid drying up of wells.

