

Eucalyptus globulus

Myrtaceae

South-east Australia

COMMON NAMES: **English:** Tasmanian blue gum; **Kikuyu:** Mubau, Munyua mai, Muringamu; **Luo:** Bao, Bap kaladali, Bawo.

DESCRIPTION: A tall tree to 55 m, but usually much smaller; rather narrow, the crown rounded and open, the main stems straight. **BARK:** **Blue-grey, smooth** peeling in long strips, rough at the base. **LEAVES:** **Young leaves,** opposite, oval, **blue-grey, without stalks** and mature leaves deep blue-green, **very long and thin to 30 cm, slightly curved,** stalked, smelling of camphor if crushed, tip sharp. **FLOWERS:** Buds **grey-green, wrinkled, 2.5 cm,** usually one, rarely 2 or 3 white flowers to 4 cm across. **FRUIT:** Woody, half spheres, rough, **3 cm across,** no stalks.

ECOLOGY: Grows in the cooler and wetter parts of south-east Australia and Tasmania. It is the preferred gum tree in plantations around Elburgon and Njoro. A eucalypt for high-altitude areas, even tolerating frost. Agroclimatic Zones I–IV.

USES: Firewood, charcoal, timber (heavy and light construction, pulpwood), poles, posts, veneer, medicine, bee forage, windbreak, essential oil.

PROPAGATION: Seedlings, direct sowing at site.

SEED: On average about 62,000 seeds per kg. Germination 35–80% within 4–15 days.

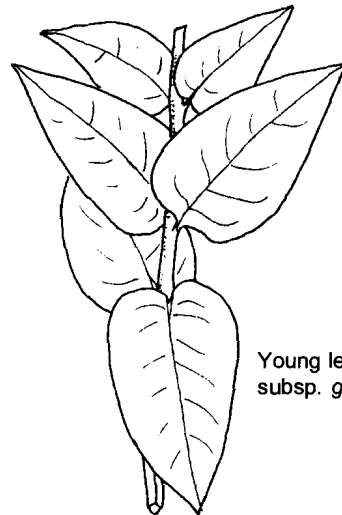
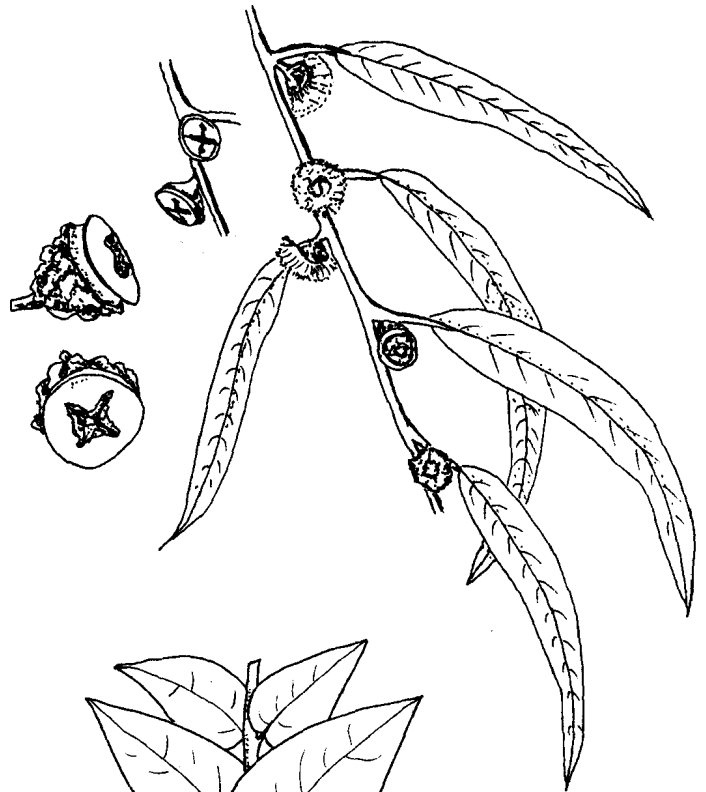
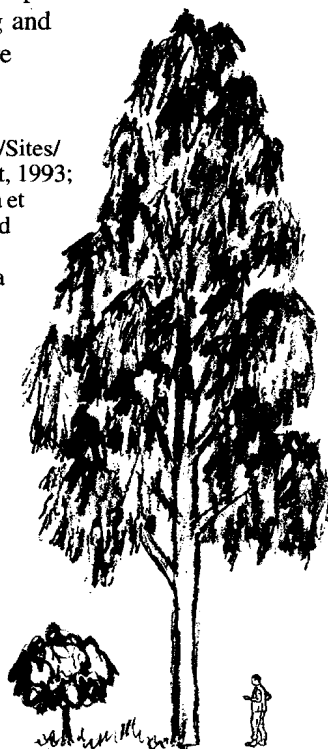
treatment: Not necessary.

storage: Seed can be stored for long periods.

MANAGEMENT: Fast growing, coppices very well.

REMARKS: The young blue-grey leaves of this species produce a pale yellow oil that has been used in pharmaceutical products, perfumery and soap making. The light yellowish brown heartwood is hard, heavy, strong and moderately durable. In some places it is liable to attack by beetles. Do not plant near crops or buildings because of its strong and vigorous root system. There are several subspecies.

FURTHER READING: <http://www.worldagroforestrycentre.org/Sites/TreeDBS/AFT/AFT.htm>; Albrecht, 1993; Bein et al., 1996; Bekele-Tesemma et al., 1993; Dharani, 2002; Fichtl and Adi, 1994; Katende et al., 1995; Löttschert and Beese, 1983; Mbuya et al., 1994; National Academy of Sciences, 1980; Noad and Birnie, 1989.



Young leaves of subsp. *globulus*

