

Eucalyptus globulus

Myrtaceae

South-West Australia

- Common names: Chag: mbanyi; Eng: Tasmanian blue gum; Swah: mkaratusi
- Ecology: Grows naturally in the cooler and wetter parts of **south-west** Australia. It prefers good-quality loams with adequate but not excessive moisture. The climatic range transitional and wet montane. Suitable for areas over **2,000** m above sea level.
- Uses: Firewood, charcoal, timber (heavy and light construction), poles, flooring, veneer, plywood, medicine, bee forage, windbreak, essential oils (young leaves).
- Description: A tall tree to 55 m, rather narrow, the crown rounded **and** open, the main stems straight. **BARK:** blue-grey, **smooth** peeling in long strips, rough at 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**.
- Propagation: Seedlings, direct sowing.
- Seed info.: No. of seeds per kg: 75,000-100,000. Seeds germinate in 4-15 days, at a rate of 35-80% with good seed.
- treatment: not necessary.
- storage: seed can be stored for a long time.
- Management: Fast growing; coppicing.
- Remarks: Young leaves of this species have been used to produce a oil used in pharmaceutical products. The tree is very susceptible to attack by beetles (*Gonipterus scutellatus*). The wood is hard, heavy and strong, the oil making it termite resistant. Therefore it is often used for telegraph poles. It is believed to remove much water from the soil so is not recommended for hill-top conservation forests.

