

# Eucalyptus saligna

*Myrtaceae*

Coastal eastern Australia

- Common names:** Chag: mbanyi; **Eng:** Sydney blue gum; Swah: mkaratusi.
- Ecology:** This is the dominant gum tree grown in the highlands 1,200-2,400 m. It will grow in all but arid areas or **those** infested by termites. In Tanzania it is planted in woodlots. It grows best on sandy loams which are moist and well drained.
- Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber (furniture, construction), veneer, plywood, poles, posts, medicine, bee forage, **shade**, windbreak.
- Description:** A straight tree to a massive 60 m, the crown quite **rounded** and open. **BARK: rough brown and peeling in strips near** base but the branches **smooth**, green-white. **LEAVES: long and thin**, curved to 20 cm, young leaves like mature leaves in shape. **FLOWERS:** small, **the buds pointed** green cones. **FRUIT:** capsules, small, 4-8 together, conical, each 5-6 mm with a small stalk at the base, teeth of capsule usually 3-4, sharp-pointed, straight or spreading.
- Propagation:** Seedlings, direct sowing.
- Seed info.:** The tree is a prolific seeder. No. of seeds per kg 1,700,000-2,000,000. Seed germinates in 3-12 days at a **rate** of 30-70% with good seed.
- treatment:** not necessary.
- storage:** seed can be stored for long periods.
- Management:** Very fast growing on good sites; coppicing.
- Remarks:** The species should not be planted near crops as yields are adversely affected due to competition for available **water** and nutrients. A good tree for woodlots. The red-brown timber is mainly used as fuelwood and for poles. It has been planted at forest boundaries and also to reforest bare hill tops.

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