



Botanical name:
Eucalyptus camaldulensis

Common name:
River Red Gum

Origin:
Mainland Australia (seven subspecies), typically along inland rivers and floodplains. Indigenous to Hobsons Bay.

Typical height:
15-30 metres

Typical width:
12-25 metres

Growth rate:
Moderate

Typical form:
Broad domed



Characteristics:
Medium to large evergreen tree. Develops thick trunk with heavy limbs. Greyish trunk with cream, red, or dark-grey patches, irregularly shed, and rough, persistent bark at base. Strongly beaked caps on flower buds; fruits with distinct, projecting valves (usually 4).

Site requirements:
Grows in wide range of soils, naturally occurs in areas with deep moist subsoils with clay fraction.

Tolerances:
High tolerance of periodic waterlogging.

Suitable for use under powerlines:
Not suitable.



Notes:
Eucalyptus camaldulensis exhibits considerable morphological variation throughout its range, and consequently a number of infraspecific taxa have been described.

Subspecies *camaldulensis* discussed here, occurring in southern states and the only one native to Victoria; lacks lignotubers. Prone to psyllid attack on leaves creating lerps, usually seasonal and rarely kills trees.

Sudden limb drop often attributed to this species (typically old, large specimens), may be a consequence of distribution (i.e., where holidaymakers congregate in hot weather in popular riverside destinations), phenomenon still not well understood.

Forms large hollows and can persist for centuries even from fallen trunks, making it an excellent habitat tree, though its size and structure make it less suited for urban planting.

Target exclusion recommended under mature specimens (e.g. fencing, or informal exclusion with mulch and shrubs)

Facts and trivia:

The most widespread eucalypt in Australia and the most commonly planted eucalypt outside of Australia.

Easily distinguished from eastern Red Gums (e.g. *E. tereticornis*, *E. blakelyi*) by the very pinched, beaked bud cap.

Is known to hybridise with other gums, e.g. *E. ×studleyensis* (crossed with *E. ovata*) found around Kew, Viewbank, Watsonia, and *E. ×oxypoma* (crossed with *E. largiflorens*) around northern/western Vic (Dimboola, Horsham, Keerang).

References:

Costermans, L. F. (1981). *Native trees and shrubs of south-eastern Australia*, New Holland Publishers.

VicFlora (2019), *Eucalyptus baueriana*. Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne. Viewed 20 December 2019.

<<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/b02aa95d-0118-4d5c-a711-676f07cd3055> >

