



Botanical name:
Eucalyptus torquata

Common name:
Coral Gum

Origin:
Localised to the central and southern goldfields of inland south-west Western Australia, from Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie south to Norseman.

Typical height:
4-12 metres

Typical width:
3-5 metres

Growth rate:
Moderate

Typical form:
Flat-topped to rounded dense canopy on solitary trunk.



Characteristics:
Small evergreen tree. Persistent rough grey-black bark on trunk grading to smooth grey-brown bark on upper branches. Distinctive orange-pink flowers with strongly beaked cap and basal ribs, most prolific in late spring/early summer. Fruits are cylinder-shaped, also with prominent basal ribs.

Site requirements:
Typically found in shallow reddish loams on rocky sites but can grow in a range of soil textures if well-drained and in full sun. Noted to grow along the edges of salt lakes.

Tolerances:
High tolerance of drought. Poor tolerance of shade, humidity and high soil moisture.

Suitable for use under powerlines:
Potentially with management. The tree responds to pruning if required.



Image: RDahms-Holliday-2009 ©

Notes:

Structurally sound wood with relatively uniform habit. Remarkably resilient to wind load for a non-lignotuberous species. Flowers best in dry environments.

Facts and trivia:

Torquate is from Latin, *torquatus*, having a twisted collar or ring, referring to the corrugated structure of the base of the flower buds and fruit.

An attractive but highly variable hybrid of *E. torquata* and *E. woodwardii* (Lemon-flowered Gum) is sold as *E. × 'Torwood'*, which retains some of the distinctive ribs on the fruit and yellow-to-orange flowers and has a less compact canopy.

References:

Nicolle, D (2016), *Shorter Eucalypts for Planting in Australia*, Lane Print & Post, Adelaide.

The University of Melbourne (2019), *Burnley Plant Guide*. Viewed 18 December 2019. <www.bpg.unimelb.edu.au>