



A guide to eucalypts in the Australian Capital Territory



INTRODUCTION

There are more than 400 species (kinds) of eucalypts in Australia and many of these resemble each other closely.

Botanists identify each species according to differences in floral anatomy, some details of which can only be distinguished under a microscope, for example, the shape of the pollen grains.

Only twenty of these species occur naturally in the ACT although many others have been planted in parks and gardens or on farms.

This limited number can be identified by features that are recognizable with the naked eye. Difference in bark, leaves, buds and nuts (fruit) can be used to distinguish the various species. This guide lists these identifying characteristics.

GLOSSARY

Chop marks	Horizontal marks (as though chopped with an axe) caused by grubs.
Glaucous	Floury or wax-like in appearance.
Mallee	Multi-stemmed.
Panicle	A cluster of umbels.
Scribbles	Caused by grubs burrowing in living bark:
embossed	these show as faint ridges or grooves on <i>E. mannifera</i> ;
surface	appear as clearly defined lines etched into surface of <i>E. rossii</i> , <i>E. pauciflora</i> and <i>E. delegatensis</i> caused by the larva (grub) of the moth <i>Ogmograptis scribula</i> which is 1 to 2mm long.
Umbel	A bunch or cluster of buds or nuts.

EUCALYPT BARKS

Although the characteristics of the bark are probably the most widely used means of identifying eucalypts they are seldom sufficient by themselves. In some species the bark is distinct and uniform among all specimens but in others it is so variable that one cannot use it to identify every specimen in a group with certainty. Therefore it is necessary to use buds, nuts (fruit) and leaves in conjunction with the type of bark.

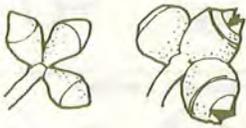
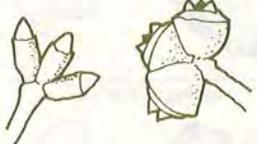
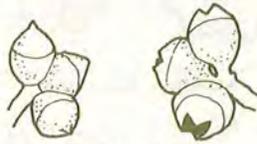
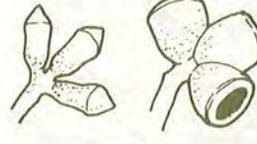
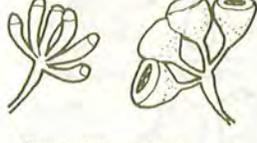
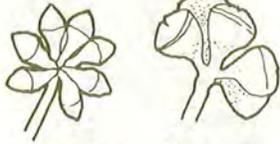
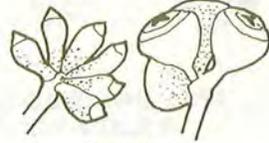
GUMS—Gums are eucalypts which have smooth bark. Although the term gum is commonly used to encompass all eucalypts it should be reserved for the smooth barked ones when identifying species. The bark of gums can be shed in pieces of various shapes and sizes. The spotted gum sheds its bark in small pieces giving it a spotted appearance while the ribbon gum sheds long strips that often hang from the tree for long periods, hence its common name.

STRINGYBARKS—In this group the bark is rough and deeply fissured or grooved. It is fairly soft but distinctly fibrous like coconut fibres when broken. The bark of the local species is a rich cinnamon colour when broken hence the common name of red stringybark.

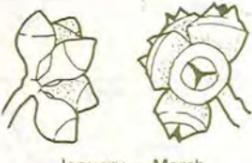
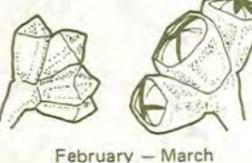
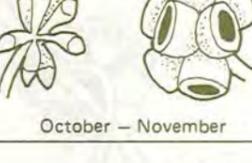
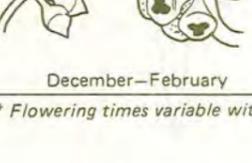
IRONBARKS—The bark of ironbarks is deeply fissured, rough and hard. They do not occur naturally in the ACT.

PEPPERMINTS—These have a rough bark similar to the stringybark but not deeply fissured. They often have a lace-like appearance and are crumbly not stringy when broken.

BOXES—The typical box has a rough bark with fissures down and across dividing it into roughly rectangular pieces. This gives it a tessellated (chequered) appearance. Large specimens are often deeply fissured near the base. The group is fairly variable and seems to contain all the eucalypts that cannot be easily fitted into the other groups.

SPECIES	HABITAT	BARK	UMBELS	CHARACTERISTICS	BUDS, NUTS & FLOWERING TIME *	ADULT & JUVENILE LEAVES
Candle bark (<i>E. rubida</i>)	Common in colder parts of ACT—between snow gums and lower forests and adjoining natural grasslands.	Smooth, white, generally powdery, often rough near base like giant dripping candle, reddish hues in autumn, often chop marked.	Regular 3 buds at leaf bases or on leafless portion of , branchlets. Round stalks.	Juvenile foliage very glaucous. Adult leaves slightly glaucous. Branchlets, umbels, buds usually slightly glaucous to glaucous.	 November – December	
Mountain gum (<i>E. dalrympleana</i>)	Higher and wetter altitudes, often with snow gum.	Smooth white-pink hues in autumn, sometimes chop marked.	Regular 3 buds at leaf bases, stalks compressed.	Trunk usually straight, juvenile foliage slightly glaucous, adult leaves shiny	 June	
Ribbon gum (<i>E. viminalis</i>)	Low to higher altitudes along water courses and cool aspects.	Smooth, white, often rough near base. Shed bark hangs in ribbons, sometimes chop marked.	Regular 3 buds at leaf bases.	Usually tall straight tree. Note long juvenile leaves in pairs. Non-glaucous.	 February – April	
Tingiringi gum (<i>E. glaucescens</i>)	High altitude rocky ridges. NW side of Mt Tidbinbilla is the only known location in the ACT.	Smooth, whitish, shed in long strips, rough at base of large trees. Trees at Tidbinbilla are mallee form.	Regular 3 buds at leaf bases.	Juvenile leaves and buds very glaucous. Bud caps knobby or warty looking and wider than capsule.	 Uncertain	
Scribbly gum (<i>E. rossii</i>)	Dry hilly forested areas (dry sclerophyll forest). More common on NE to NW aspects and higher slopes. Black Mountain.	Smooth, white-cream-grey, often patchy, usually surface scribbled, occasionally powdery, wrinkled at base of branches.	Irregular 5-12 buds at leaf bases or cluster of umbels at end of branchlets (terminal panicles).	Non-glaucous. Umbels irregular, buds club-shaped. Pressure ridges or wrinkles under base of large branches.	 December – January	
Red spotted gum (<i>E. mannifera</i> subsp. <i>maculosa</i>)	Lower slopes of dry eucalypt forests, more common on W, S and E aspects Black Mountain	Smooth whitish cream to grey blotchy, often dimpled, often with embossed scribbles, often powdery.	Regular 7 buds at leaf bases or on leafless portion of branchlets.	Non-glaucous. Juvenile leaves dull. Umbels a symmetrical set of 7 buds or part thereof.	 February – March	
Snow gum (<i>E. pauciflora</i>)	High altitudes, in frost hollows and cooler slopes at lower levels.	Smooth white or mottled in grey and white, often with surface scribbles.	2-15 buds at leaf bases.	Juvenile leaves glaucous, adult non-glaucous. Veins in adult leaves longitudinal, trunk seldom straight.	 October	

* Flowering times variable with season

SPECIES	HABITAT	BARK	UMBELS	CHARACTERISTICS	BUDS, NUTS & FLOWERING TIME*	ADULT & JUVENILE LEAVES
Black sally (<i>E. stellulata</i>)	Lowland to alpine regions in cold wet locations.	Smooth, grey with green, yellow and pink hues in winter. Usually black and rough at base.	6-15 buds, starlike umbels at leaf bases or on leafless portion of branchlets.	Non-glaucous. Bark usually grey. Buds form a starlike umbel. Veins in adult leaves longitudinal.	 March - June	
Blakely's red gum (<i>E. blakelyi</i>)	Lower slopes and woodland in better soils. Often with yellow box.	Smooth large blotches of blue-grey to reddish brown. New cream coloured bark in autumn.	4-12 buds at leaf bases, round stalks.	Juvenile leaves slightly glaucous. Buds have conspicuously long caps.	 November - December	
Red box (<i>E. polyanthemus</i>)	Gentle slopes to stony ridges, patchy occurrence in dry eucalypt forest. West slope and top of Black Mountain.	Variable—usually rough base but sometimes smooth to ground, streaky blotches of white-cream-grey.	3-7 buds per umbel in panicles at leaf bases or at ends of branchlets.	Adult and juvenile leaves, branchlets, buds and nuts slightly glaucous to glaucous. Tree has slightly bluish, broad-leaved appearance.	 September - October	
Yellow box (<i>E. melliodora</i>)	Lower slopes and woodland in better soils. Often with Blakely's red gum.	Very variable—rarely smooth to ground, generally rough, tessellated, grey to very coarse and rusty-black. Upper branches smooth with white creamy-grey streaks.	7 budded when very young but some soon lost. Central bud usually longer. Umbels or panicles at leaf bases or at ends of branchlets.	Non-glaucous to slightly glaucous. Nuts with thin staminal ring. Nuts soon shed.	 December - January	
Apple box (<i>E. bridgesiana</i>)	Lower slopes, alluvial flats and creeks. Edges of woodland and forests.	Rough, grey, tessellated on trunk and large branches. Upper branches smooth.	Regular 7 buds at leaf bases. Buds 'egg in egg-cup' shape.	Adult leaves non-glaucous, juvenile leaves glaucous.	 January - March	
Mealy bundy (<i>E. nortonii</i>)	Steeper slopes and stony ridges, Tidbinbilla to Tharwa. Also in Molonglo Gorge.	Rough, grey, tessellated on trunk and large branches. Upper branches smooth.	Regular 7 buds at leaf bases. Stalks thick and flattened.	Adult leaves slightly glaucous. Branchlets, buds, nuts and juvenile leaves glaucous to highly glaucous.	 February - March	
Bundy (<i>E. goniocalyx</i>)	Lower slopes in sparse dry forest or woodland. Long Gully and near NE boundary of ACT.	Rough, grey, tessellated on trunk and larger branches. Large trees deeply fissured near base.	4-7 buds at leaf bases. Stalks thick and flattened.	Branchlets, umbels, buds and nuts slightly or non-glaucous.	 March - August	
Broad-leaved sally (<i>E. camphora</i>)	Swampy alpine areas. Recorded in Dingo Dell, Coree Flats and Blundells Flats.	Rough on lower trunk, smooth with ribbons on upper part. Pale creamy-grey all over.	5-9 buds. Stalks round or slightly flattened. Mostly on leafless portion and bases of smaller branches.	Non-glaucous but slightly greyish foliage. Broad conspicuous leaves retained on most trees.	 March - April	
Broad-leaved peppermint (<i>E. dives</i>)	Marginal areas of dry eucalypt forests and drier mountain slopes.	Rough (not stringy) shallow fissures often deep near base. Often lace-like appearance. Upper branches smooth.	7-19 buds at leaf bases. Stalks slightly flattened.	Juvenile leaves slightly glaucous. Often red gum tips. Strong peppermint smell.	 October - November	
Narrow-leaved peppermint (<i>E. radiata</i> subsp. <i>robertsonii</i>)	Cooler foothills and wet eucalypt forests. Common at Tidbinbilla in E to S aspect.	Rough (not stringy) shallow fissures, often deep near base. Often lace-like appearance. Upper branches smooth.	10-21 buds at leaf bases or on leafless portion of branchlets. Stalks thin and rounded.	Juvenile, adult leaves and umbels slightly glaucous giving tree a bluish appearance. Peppermint smell.	 September - March	
Red stringybark (<i>E. macrorhyncha</i>)	Dry hillsides and foothills in dry eucalypt forests usually with <i>E. rossii</i> and <i>E. mannifera</i> .	Rough, deeply fissured and stringy. Grey to cinnamon red outside. Rich cinnamon when broken.	6-12 buds at leaf bases. Stalks slightly flattened.	Non-glaucous. Large rounded nuts. Distinctly peaked buds. Lower juvenile leaves rough to touch.	 November - January	
Alpine ash (<i>E. delegatensis</i>)	Higher slopes, moist cool SE-SW aspects. Often forms stands.	Rough (stringy) near base to halfway up trunk then smooth and creamy, surface scribbled.	7-13 buds mostly on leafless portion of branches. Stalks round.	Tall straight forest tree. Rough bark on lower half of trunk, smooth above.	 December - March	
Brown barrel (<i>E. fastigata</i>)	Cool slopes SE to SW aspect. Usually downhill from alpine ash. Tall forest tree. Cascades trail, Tidbinbilla.	Rough, deeply fissured, stringy on trunk and larger branches. Sheds in ribbons from smaller branches.	7-12 buds. One or two umbels at each leaf base. Stalks round and slender.	Tall, straight, rough-barked tree found on moist mountain slopes. Nuts 3 celled, rarely 4.	 December - February	

* Flowering times variable with season

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