

Eucalyptus resinifera – Red Mahogany

Family:
Myrtaceae

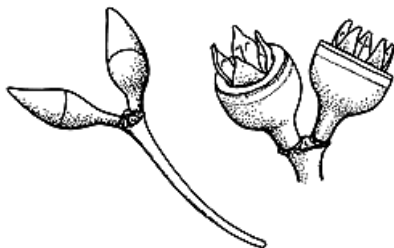
Common Name:
Red Mahogany

Distribution:
NSW central coast to 300m altitude extending from Jervis Bay to Taree on the mid north coast of NSW. In HSC largely restricted to shale capped ridges and plateaus chiefly around Epping north to Arcadia, on shale derived soil. Also commonly found on the transition from shale to sandstone. In HSC; rarely in Community BG1 (37.2 ha), more frequent in TI (295.0 ha), DF (15.5 ha) less commonly in L1 (837.3 ha) and common in L2 (14.1 ha).

Derivation of Name:
Eucalyptus, Greek, derived from eu “well” and kalyptos “covered”, a reference to the caps covering the flowering buds. *resinifera*, Latin, *resina* (resin) *fera* (bearing), however this is an anomaly since it was incorrectly applied to a species of Angophora.

Conservation Status:
High conservation priority in HSC where it is an infrequent canopy tree of the endangered Turpentine Ironbark Forest. A tree in decline in suburban areas where there is no natural recruitment and a current ageing population.

Description:
A medium sized to tall tree with an open crown of dark green foliage with best development on soils of higher fertility and high moisture. Grows to around 25m in HSC, up to 45m outside of HSC area. The trunk has thick rough persistent bark to the smaller branches easily mistaken as a “stringybark” but the bark cannot be removed in long strips. Thin dark green leaves are slightly discoloured and taper to a fine point; they range from 9–16 cm long and 2–4cm in width. Flowers through early to late summer (October-February) the flower buds have very long operculums. Fruit are woody capsules 7-11mm with valves strongly exerted usually 4 sometimes 3 valves. The disc is highly variable.



Longevity:
In excess of 100 years.

Horticultural Merit and uses:
Not commonly found in horticultural situations, this tree is generally too big for the average garden. Suitable for parks and open space plantings. Timber is a dense, red wood that reminded early Australian colonists of Jamaican mahogany Red Mahogany is a valuable timber tree that can be used for bridge construction to flooring to fine furniture making.

Fauna Value:
A known food tree of the threatened Koala. Apparently tolerant of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. Also resistant to termite attack. Flowers attract Grey Headed Flying Foxes and nectar feeding birds.



