SOME ORNAMENTAL EUCALYPTS FOR DRY AREAS

NATALIE F. PEATE

Meyer Nurseries Victoria, Australia

In Australia, the genus *Eucalyptus* covers some 500 species many of which are suitable for ornamental planting. Some features considered in selecting ornamental species are suitability for conditions in the area of planting, habit, foliage, bark, flowers and sometimes fruit.

Eucalypts fall into two main groups; shrubs and trees. The shrubby species, ranging from about 4 to 20 ft in height, frequently have enlarged rootstocks, called lignotubers, from which several stems usually grow. These eucalypts are known as mallees and comprise the highest proportion of the most floriferous and beautiful species in the genus. Other shrubs and trees have either poorly developed or no lignotubers and are generally single trunked. Many of these are also highly ornamental.

A high proportion of ornamental eucalypts come from a small area in western Australia known as the "Goldfields Area." A brief description of ten of these species has been tabulated below with information taken from "Eucalypts of the Western Australian Goldfields (and the adjacent wheatbelt)" by G. M. Chippendale.

Propagation is by seed as vegetative means have proved difficult. In our nursery we are setting up a programme to investigate propagation from cuttings. This is being done in an attempt to reproduce hybrids which combine the aesthetic qualities of one species with the hardiness of another, species for which seed does not germinate readily, species for which seed does not reproduce uniformly, and species for which seed is not readily available.

We have carried out an initial crude experiment on *E. sideroxylon*. Cuttings were taken from around the lignotuber of an 18 mon. old plant dipped in medium strength IBA powder and placed in a peat/polystyrene (ratio 1:3) medium, under intermittent mist with no bottom heat. Within 3 weeks 70% of the cuttings had rooted, and all of these have developed well.

Further information on sources of Australian plant seed or available information can be obtained from the author.

Table 1. Characteristics of ten eucalypts.

Habit	Ht.,ft.	Habitat rain inches	Flo ^x	wer time		_	Special sites suited
tree/ mallee	8-20	8-20	cr, yel pk, crim	winter spring	yes	yes	coast, dry
tree/ mallee	9-25	19	yel	autumn	yes	mod.	coast
tree	30	35+	red, pk or, cr	summer	mod.	tender when young	coast
treè/ mallee	15	13-16	yel	summer	yes	yes	salty, coast, dry
tree/ mallee	9-20	15-30	yel, green	summer	yes	mod.	salty, dry
mallee	4-8	15-20	crim, pk	spring early summer	yes	mod.	sandy
tree/ mallee	9-25	15-37	yel- green	mid- summer	yes	mod.	salty, coast, dry
mallee tree tree/ mallee	7-10 45 25	15-20 8-15 17-20	red cr yel	summer summer summer	yes yes mod.	mod. yes yes	dry coast
	tree/ mallee tree/ mallee tree/ mallee tree/ mallee mallee mallee tree/ mallee tree/ mallee	tree/ 8-20 mallee tree/ 9-25 mallee tree/ 30 tree/ 9-20 mallee mallee 4-8 tree/ 9-25 mallee 4-8	Habit Ht.,ft. rain inches tree/ mallee tree/ mallee tree 8-20 8-20 mallee tree/ p-25 19 19 mallee tree 30 35+ tree/ mallee 9-20 15-30 mallee mallee 4-8 15-20 tree/ mallee 9-25 15-37 mallee tree/ sallee 7-10 15-20 tree/ tree/ 45 8-15 17-20	Habit Ht.,ft. rain inches colourx colourx Flored colourx tree/ mallee 8-20 cr, yel pk, crim yel pk, crim yel mallee tree/ stree 9-25 19 yel yel pk, crim yel pk or, cr tree/ stree/ mallee 15 13-16 yel green green crim, pk tree/ stree/ mallee 9-20 15-30 yel, green crim, pk tree/ stree/ stre	Habit Ht.,ft. rain inches Flower colourx colourx time tree/ mallee tree/ mallee 8-20 cr, yel pk, crim spring pk, crim spring yel autumn spring yel autumn mallee tree 30 35+ red, pk or, cr summer or, cr tree/ mallee 9-20 15-30 yel, summer green green pk early summer mallee summer mallee arly summer mid-green summer tree/ mallee 9-25 15-37 yel- mid-green summer mallee 7-10 15-20 red summer tree 45 8-15 cr summer tree/ 25 17-20 yel summer	Habit Ht.,ft. rain inches Flower colourx Resistant drought tree/ mallee 8-20 cr, yel pk, crim spring autumn yes spring autumn yes spring autumn tree/ stree 9-25 19 yel summer mod. mod. tree/ stree/ mallee 15 13-16 yel summer yes summer yes mallee yes summer yes tree 9-25 15-37 yel summer yes yes tree/ 25 17-20 yel summer yes summer yes summer yes summer yes summer yes summer mod.	Habit Ht.,ft, inches colour time drought frost tree/ 8-20 8-20 cr, yel winter yes yes mallee tree/ 9-25 19 yel autumn yes mod. tender or, cr when young tree/ 15 13-16 yel summer yes yes mallee tree/ 9-20 15-30 yel, summer yes yes mallee tree/ 9-25 15-37 yel- mallee tree/ 9-25 15-37 yel- mallee tree/ 9-25 15-37 yel- mallee tree/ 9-25 15-30 red summer yes mod. mallee tree/ 9-25 15-37 yel- mid- yes mod. yes tree/ 25 17-20 yel summer yes yes tree/ 25 17-20 yel summer mod. yes

xFlower Colour: Cr=cream, crim=crimson, yel=yellow, or=orange, pk=pink. yResistance: Mod.=moderately.