

# Forest red gum

## *Eucalyptus tereticornis*

RE Class  
11.3.4



*Forest red gum  
stand*

This is one of the better known gum trees. The wood is hard, very durable and of bright red colour, from which comes the common name 'Blue gum'. The outer bark generally has a bluish tint, but is normally patchy and may range from nearly white to reddish according to season and the locality, a short stocking at the base of the tree can have rough flaky bark. The leaves are long and slightly curved towards the point, with reddish coloured bark on the end of the branches. Flowers are white, some may have a pink tinge; flowering period is April to November.

Forest red gum grows on creek flats and alluvial flood plains and on heavy soils; trees can vary from being large dominant trees to stems with poor form, with defect such as bends and stunted growth are found on poorer soils. Regeneration on creek flats can be very thick if the area has been kept free of cattle, which tend to rub and trample regeneration when grazing on grass. On some creek flats where regeneration has been left to grow the trees can become too overstocked and become stunted and tend to grow slowly unless thinned to provide space.

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*Overstocked stand*



Sawmills prefer large trees with hardly any sap on the log, as the smaller trees can have a lot of sap and boards cut out of these logs tend to bend and twist. Timber is very hard, with interlocking grain, very durable and is used for the construction and mining industries. It is best practice to cut trees with a large diameter and give space to smaller trees to grow.

Large swelling that can be seen on some trees is from fires, because there can be a build up of matter from bark and grass which can create enough heat to cook the outside of the tree, also from limbs falling, as the tree repairs itself by growing bark back over the damaged area it creates a large swell. These trees can still produce mill logs if the damaged part is cut off and termite activity is not too severe. Unproductive trees with large fire scars and termite nests can be retained as habitat trees if they have visible hollows 10 cm or more, if these trees have no hollows they can be retained as recruitment trees.



*Tree with large swelling produced mill log 5.1 m x 60 cm = 1.442 m<sup>3</sup>*