

Gum topped box, Grey box

Eucalyptus moluccana

RE Class
11.3.26



*Gum topped box
forest*

The Gum topped box is a medium sized tree which can grow to a height of 20 m and 1 m in diameter. The trunk is generally straight with good form. The bark is finely tessellated, grey colour box-type which is like a stocking up to the base of the lowest branches, where it changes to a grey shiny smooth bark which is often shed in ribbons. Trees usually have white flowers from January to April; often bee keepers like to pursue this species because it produces good honey and nectar.

This species prefers a heavy clay soil or clay sub-soil, grows best on alluvial flats, one of the fastest growing species for black soil. It is necessary to thin poor quality trees so as to give smaller trees space to grow and encourage the growth of a mixed aged forest. The timber is pale coloured strong and durable, often used as flooring and structural timber in houses and construction timber in the mining industry.

Trees with bumps and lumps may be unproductive; if they have hollows 10 cm or more which are visible, these trees are required as 'habitat' trees.

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*Trees with
termite activity*



Forests types within the 'Greater glider' range which covers the Fitzroy Basin must have a minimum of six habitat trees to be retained per hectare, plus two recruitment trees which are required for the code of practice applying to a native forest practice on freehold land.

Experience is necessary to mark trees with defects for harvesting and it is essential to carry an axe for inspections in order to 'sound the tree'. If the tree sounds hollow, then it will have a large hole and probably not be suitable or economic to harvest. Trees can be hard to 'sound' especially if they have mud in their centre. This is the result of termite activity, visual signs of termite nests in a tree can be seen as bumps, which are breather holes for the ants.

It is advisable to thin out trees which will not grow into future stands. This includes trees with fire scars and mistletoe infestations, crown in poor health with dead branches and 'epicormic growth' which is shoots that grow from dormant buds from beneath the bark often after the tree has been stressed by drought or fire. Trees which are not required for future forests, and will not be needed for recruitment or habitat trees can be thinned by harvesting or stem injection.

*Gum topped box
sawlog*

