

Spotted gum

Corymbia citriodora

RE Class
11.10.1



Spotted gum (Lemon scented gum) currently has the highest volume of native hardwood harvested in central Queensland. Growing on flats to steep undulating country, Spotted gum can usually be found on dry gravelly ridges. Adaptable to a wide range of soils, can grow on rocks with moderately poor shallow soils, grows best on flats where good quality soils are available with well drained subsoils, where you find the best growth rates. White flowers from May to November.

The bark of the tree can have a pink to grey-blue complexion, with its skin blemished by numerous surface dimples as though it has been through a hailstorm; this is where it gets the name 'Spotted gum'. It is easy to distinguish as when the leaves are rubbed together they give off a strong smell of citrus. Bark is often shed during the months October to December; it comes off the tree in small curled flakes.

The timber is hard, often greasy looking, durable, strong and very resilient, which makes it the most favoured wood for tool handles. Spotted gum also cuts and dresses easily for use in housing and mining industries in various sizes, also used for power poles and under ground mine props.

Prepared by
Reg Connolly

for further
details phone
4936 0204



Fire scar



Trees with fire scars and that 'sound' like a drum (when tapped with an axe at the tree base) still produce a log, given enough length in the trunk of the tree. Other trees that look good can have hidden defect which was caused by a hot fire when the tree was young, can result in a blood ring that affects the total length of the log. Logs are susceptible to bores in the sap wood if left lying at the stump for some time.

Termite activity can also be a defect in Spotted gum; signs such as termite bumps with breather holes should be looked out for. Unproductive trees with fire scars and ant nests should be kept as habitat trees if they have visible hollows measuring 10 cm or more. If there are no hollows they can be kept as recruitment habitat trees.

Mistletoe can restrict the growth of trees which in time can kill trees if the mistletoe attacks the tree in large numbers. The mistletoe is usually recognised by clumps of drooping foliage which stand out as the trees foliage is more erect.

Mistletoe in canopy

