

Eucalyptus parramattensis



Family: Myrtaceae

Distribution: Central coast of New South Wales extending inland to about Putty. Relatively common in poorly drained clayey soils that characterise the Cumberland Plain in western Sydney

Common Name: Calgaroo; Parramatta red gum

Derivation of Name: *Eucalyptus*...from Greek, *eu*, well and *calyptos*, covered referring to the cap which covers the developing flowers. *parramattensis*...from Greek, - *ensis*, belonging to; ie. occurring in the Parramatta district

Conservation Status: Not considered to be at risk in the wild at the species level although subspecies *decadens* is regarded as vulnerable under the EPBC Act* (ie. facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future, as determined in accordance with prescribed criteria).

General Description:

Eucalyptus parramattensis, the Parramatta red gum, is a small to medium (10 - 20 metres) usually spreading, shady tree that has either a single trunk or multiple ones. Its bark is deciduous, dark to light grey, although it is sometimes persistent near the base. Its leaves are 8 - 15 cm x 2 cm, lance-shaped (lanceolate), stalked, and light to dull green on both surfaces. The inflorescences are 7 - flowered auxiliary umbels on terete peduncles that are about 1 cm long. The flowers which appear in November to January, are white and attract nectar-eating birds. The capsules grow to 0.5 cm x 0.7 cm, being hemispherical with exserted valves.



Eucalyptus parramattensis

Photo: Brian Walters

Two botanical subspecies and one variety are recognised. *E.parramattensis* subsp.*parramattensis* differs from subsp. *decadensin* having shorter bud caps (opercula). *E.parramattensis* var. *sphaerocalyx* has short, rounded bud caps in contrast to the usual conical caps.

Although not often cultivated, *E.parramattensis* is an attractive tree of moderate size that is hardy in heavy soils with plenty of sun and moisture. Calgaroo flowers profusely and is attractive to birds.

Propagation is from seed which germinates readily.

* EPBC Act = Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.