

Eucalyptus nitens

shining gum

The 'Maidenaria gums'

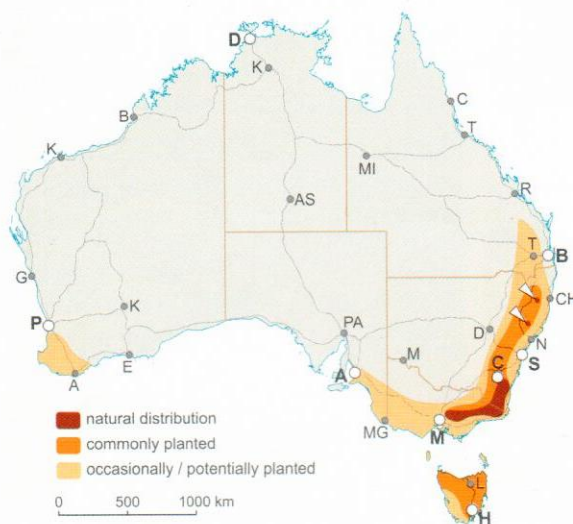
Origin of name: From the Latin *nitens* (shining), referring to the leaves, flower buds and fruits.

Other names: silvertop (NSW).

Features: Tree, 20–50 m tall (rarely to 85 m tall in the wild), single-trunked, lignotuber development unknown. Bark mostly smooth, seasonally cream to pale grey to tan, shedding in strips and ribbons which sometimes remain hanging in the canopy. Juvenile leaves in opposite pairs, oval-shaped, greyish, waxy-white, stems with 4 longitudinal ribs. Adult leaves lance-shaped, 15–30 mm wide, shiny, dark green. Buds and fruits in groups of 7, on group stalks but lacking individual stalks. Flowers white, occurring mainly in summer and early autumn. Fruits cup-shaped to barrel-shaped, 4–7 mm wide.

Natural distribution & habitat: Restricted to a number of isolated populations in the colder forested parts of south-eastern Australia. It is most common (although still quite scattered) in the central highlands of Vic, from near Toolangi east to the Mt Wellington area, with smaller, scattered populations from Mt Kaye in far eastern Vic, north to near Captains Flat in south-eastern NSW, and with a few small occurrences further north at Barrington Tops and in the Ebor area in north-eastern NSW. It grows in mountainous areas at relatively high altitudes, in clay-loam soils on hillslopes and ridges, in forest vegetation.

Cultivation & uses: Commonly grown as a plantation species in Tas and the colder parts of Vic and NSW, on inland and/or high altitude sites that are too cold for plantations of *E. globulus* (Tasmanian blue gum). Trees within plantations are generally closely-spaced, and are usually harvested and chipped for paper pulp while relatively young. The pale yellow to pale pink wood is tough but not very durable. Plantation trees tend to be tall and slender, while open-grown trees form a large, rounded crown with foliage to the ground, although the species is rarely grown outside of plantations in Australia.



Why plant me?

- ▶ Tall forest tree
- ▶ Very fast-growing
- ▶ Plantations for timber used to make paper pulp
- ▶ Tolerant of very cold temperatures

The species can be grown as a hedge in cold regions, where periodic pruning causes the retention of its attractive, silvery grey juvenile foliage.

Management: The species is drought susceptible, and on lower rainfall sites and seasonally dry sites, trees often suffer drought stress or complete failure in extended dry periods.

Similar species:

◦ ***E. denticulata* (Errinundra shining gum)**

A closely-related large forest tree, differing from *E. nitens* most notably in the sparsely and irregularly toothed (denticulate) margins of its adult leaves. It grows naturally on the Errinundra Plateau and adjacent areas in eastern Vic and far south-eastern NSW, as well as in the central highlands of Vic, where it intergrades with *E. nitens*, which also grows in that area. Unlike *E. nitens*, it is not widely used as a plantation species. It can grow to massive proportions – **Darejo**, on the Errinundra Plateau, is 61 m tall, 14.4 m in trunk girth, and has a wood volume of about 200 m³, while the **Whitelow Tree**, in the Thomson Valley, is 57.5 m tall, 14.9 m in trunk girth, and has a wood volume of about 230 m³.

◦ ***E. neglecta* (Omeo gum)**

A much smaller species, naturally restricted to isolated populations in the alpine region of Vic, where it grows on valley flats and along streams, often as an understorey to larger forest species such as *E. viminalis* and *E. camphora*. It differs from *E. nitens* most conspicuously in its smaller, often multi-trunked and spreading habit (to about 8 m tall), its non-shedding, hard-fibrous bark on the trunk(s), and its crown of broader leaves (25–80 mm wide), which are often stalkless and/or arranged in opposite pairs. It has been occasionally planted in south-eastern Australia (especially in Vic) for amenity and screening.

◦ ***E. globulus* (Tasmanian blue gum), p. 92**

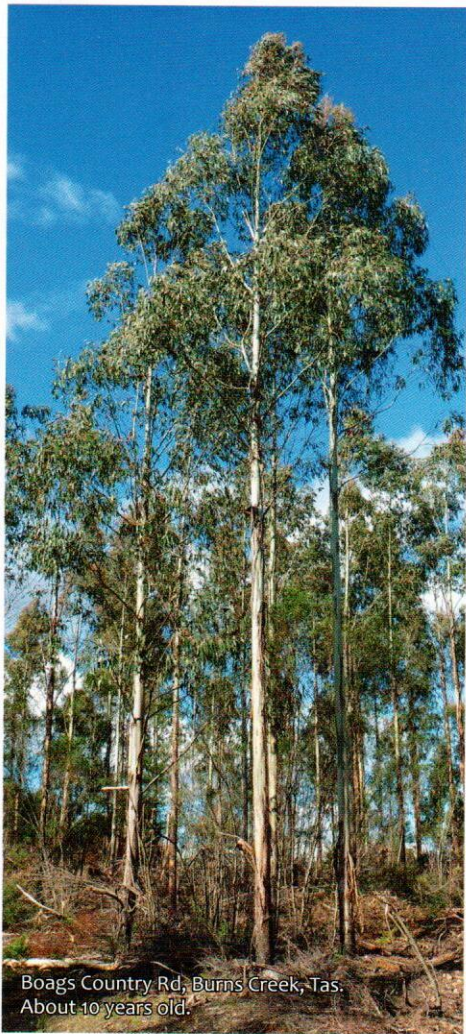
Another common plantation species, differing from *E. nitens* most conspicuously in its much larger, warty-ribbed buds and fruits that occur singularly in the leaf axils. It is naturally restricted to Tas and southern Vic. It is the preferred plantation species in higher-rainfall parts of southern Australia, but is not as cold tolerant as *E. nitens*.

Preferences:

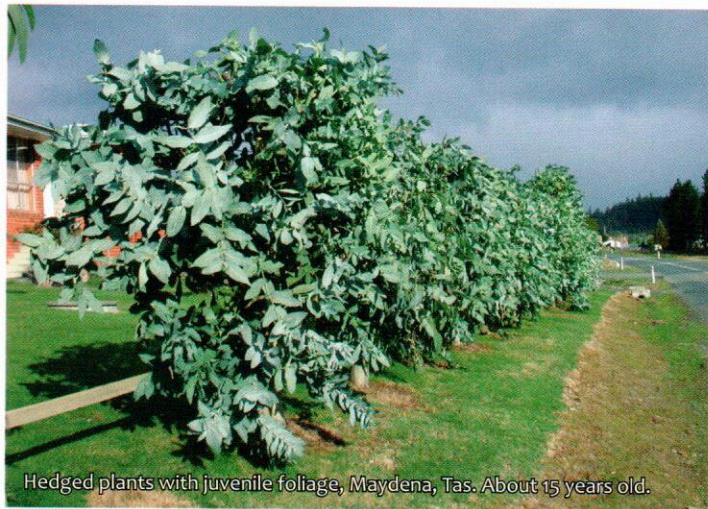
Water	Soil	Salt	Air temp.	Light
750–1000+ mm	limestone	heavy sea-spray	<-5 °C	full sun, <100% shade
well-drained	other rock	light sea-spray	-5–0 °C	full sun, long/short
poorly-drained	sand	highly saline soil	0–25 °C	full sun, short/long
shallow w/table	loam/silt	mod. saline soil	25–42 °C	depleted, long/short
reg. irrigated	clay	sl. saline soil	>42 °C	depleted, short/long



Camden Rd, Tayene, Tas. About 12 years old.



Boags Country Rd, Burns Creek, Tas.
About 10 years old.



Hedged plants with juvenile foliage, Maydena, Tas. About 15 years old.

