

KOALA BROWSE - FOUR EUCALYPTUS

GENUS *Eucalyptus baxterii*, *robusta*, *obliqua* and *viminalis* (illustrated in the order)

Four eastern eucalyptus that provide a browse source for koalas and that are suitable for the establishment of a varied food source.

Eucalyptus baxterii - the brown stringybark is found naturally in hilly country from south eastern South Australia, southern Victoria (and including sandy desert country in these states) and south east New South Wales. This is a variable form that can range from a shrub or mallee to a tall forest tree up to 12 metres. Generally a tall upright tree with a straight trunk and dense crown that produces a general-purpose timber. Hardy, frost resistant, fast growing, salt spray resistant, 20 to 35 metres in height. Best in good moist soils but useful on light, poor or sandy soils. Minimum rainfall 500-650 mm. Not suitable for saline or wet soils. Useful for farm forestry and windbreaks.

Eucalyptus obliqua - the Messmate stringybark ranges from south eastern South Australia through the coast and lower ranges of Tasmania, southern and eastern Victoria and through the southern coastal ranges and northern tablelands of New South Wales to the Queensland border. Again a variable species ranging from a small tree to a very tall forest tree, often up to 12 metres, although 50 m. plus in high rainfall areas. Good drainage is necessary. Minimum rainfall 650-900 mm. Useful for farm forestry, high windbreaks, shade and honey. This species will tolerate light snow.

Eucalyptus robusta - the swamp mahogany is a small to medium sized tree found in the coastal belt of New South Wales from Nowra north into south eastern Queensland. This is an impressive spreading, densely crowned species, a small to medium sized gum often 12 to 20 metres that favours swampy land. Minimum rainfall 650-900 mm. Useful for high windbreaks and honey. This species is suitable for heavy and poorly drained soils, limestone, sub-saline and alkaline soils and coastal locations. It will tolerate smog and flooding.

Eucalyptus viminalis - the manna gum is a widely dispersed species that occurs naturally on tablelands and mountains in south east South Australia, eastern Tasmania, much of southern and eastern Victoria and the Great Divide throughout New South Wales and southern Queensland. It is an attractive, upright tree with a long clean white trunk and slender branchlets that makes a good specimen tree. It ranges from a medium sized to very tall forest tree normally between 20 and 35 metres in height, but to 50 metres in ideal conditions. This species is one of the most frost tolerant of all eucalypts tolerating 10* C of frost. Minimum rainfall 650-900 mm. Also useful for farm forestry, high windbreaks and honey with good ornamental qualities. This species will tolerate snow and flooding.