

Eucalyptus piperita – Sydney Peppermint

Family:
Myrtaceae

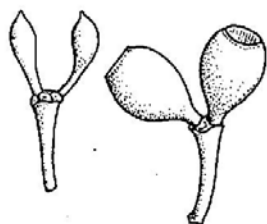
Common Name:
Sydney Peppermint

Distribution:
NSW east coast and ranges extending from the Tuross River on the NSW south coast north to Napiac NSW. In HSC a widespread forest and woodland tree in extensive near pure stands or as a co-dominant canopy tree on sandstone soil derived plateaus, hillsides and gullies. In HSC; Community O1 (107.9 ha), RF1 (5.9 ha), DF (15.5 ha), L1 (837.3 ha), Q1 (271.1ha), A (5,579.4 ha), C (638.4 ha), F (1289.6 ha), B (93.4 ha) and D (4408.7 ha).

Derivation of Name:
Eucalyptus, Greek, derived from eu "well" and kalyptos "covered", a reference to the caps covering the flowering buds. *piperita*, Latin, pepper, pertaining to peppermint in relation to its aroma being similar to the European peppermint herb.

Conservation Status:
Adequately conserved in HSC, very common.

Description:
A variable tree depending on exposure, soil fertility and fire disturbance history, as such it can be a very tall single trunked tree or a multi trunked shorter tree. Grows around 20m occasionally to 25m in HSC. The trunk has a thick stocking of permanent grey coloured fibrous bark often spreading well onto the lower limbs while upper branches are smooth and pale in colour often with long hanging ribbons of bark where the smooth sections begin. Leaves are dull in colour, concolorous and have an oblique base; they range from 10–14 cm long and 1–3cm in width. Foliage has a strong distinctive peppermint aroma. Flowering occurs in summer through December to January. Fruit are small globular capsules (urn shaped) held in tight clusters with valves enclosed below the disc/rim.



Longevity:
Well in excess of 100 years.

Horticultural Merit and uses:
Rarely used in horticultural applications, suitable only for large gardens or park plantings. Requires full sun and well drained soils to perform best. Essential oils are known to be extracted from the foliage of this species.

Fauna Value:
Nectar and pollen highly sought after by fauna when the tree is in flower. Older trees form magnificent fauna refuges with many hollow logs.





