

Plant Name: Eucalyptus citriodora (F)
Common Name: Lemon-scented Gum

Plant Type: Tree
Colour: White
Height: 50m

Flowering Time: Flowers from Apr to Aug

Cutflower: Yes



Species Data (applies to all plants in this Plant Species)

No Species data defined for this species

Plant Data (applies to THIS plant only)

Attractive, slender tree with smooth, powdery white bark and long narrow leaves which contain a lemon scented oil and are great for cutting. Best grown as a pollarded plant, ie. cut back to 1 to 2 ft of stem each spring, so that the foliage is young and fresh each year. In fact, the more it is cut back, the more stems it will produce the following year! Needs frost protection when young. Also makes an excellent pot plant for a cool room.

- Half-Hardy Tree (tolerates some frost)
- Position: Sun or semi-shade

Tree to 50 m tall.

Bark smooth throughout, white to pink or coppery, often powdery, shedding in thin curling flakes, mottling of trunk often not pronounced.

Juvenile growth (coppice or field seedlings to 50 cm): stem rounded in cross-section, scabrid; juvenile leaves always petiolate, opposite for 2 or 3 pairs then alternate, ovate to lanceolate, 14–21 cm long, 4.5–8 cm wide, the base usually peltate for many nodes, green; petiole and lamina scabrid for many nodes.

Adult leaves alternate, petiole 1–2.5 cm long; blade narrowly lanceolate to falcate, (7)10–23 cm long, 0.6–2.8(3.5) cm wide,

Flowers white.

Fruit pedicellate (pedicels 0.1–0.7 cm long), urceolate or barrel-shaped, 0.8–1.5 cm long, 0.7–1.2 cm wide, disc descending, valves 3, enclosed.

Seed reddish black, glossy, 2.3–5 mm long, boat-shaped (flattened with a slight dorsal keel), dorsal surface smooth, not winged, hilum ventral.

Flowering has been recorded in January, April, May, June, July, August, October and December. in warmer climates

Origin of Name

Corymbia citriodora: from the Latin citriodorus, lemon-scented.

Eucalyptus citriodora, or Lemon Scented Gum, is a stately evergreen tree native to Queensland, Australia. The trees have 2 forms of leaves, the juvenile leaves being lanceolate up to 6 inches (15 cm) long with a rough sandpapery feel, whereas the adult leaves are light green, glossy, and lanceolate, up to 6 inches (15 cm) long (visible on the left). The adult leaves are known as phyllodes and are more highly drought adapted. In fact, phyllodes do not have a traditional leaf lamina--instead the green leaf blade, in a developmental sense, is an outgrowth of the petiole. Both sets of leaves have a strong lemony scent when crushed. Leaves yield lemon-scented oil, Citonellal used in perfumery. The trunks and branches of this species are powdery white to pinkish and the trunks are usually very straight. In nature the trees will reach from 75-100 ft (20-30 m) tall. They are a very popular tree in California and Arizona. While this species get very big in nature, its size is easily control with selective pruning and container size when grown in the greenhouse setting.

Blooming: Trees bloom in winter in nature, in the greenhouse they bloom in late winter to early spring. The white blooms are not very distinctive. The blooms are followed by woody urn-shaped capsules about 3/8 of an inch (5 mm) wide.

Culture: Eucalyptus citriodora need full sun with a well-drained soil mix for container growing. We use a soil mix consisting of 1 part peat moss to 1 part loam to 2 parts coarse sand. Trees are well watered and allowed to dry slightly before watering again. Most gum trees grow in very nutrient poor soils and fertilizer is not needed; however we fertilize trees in container once during the spring. To control the size of the trees in containers, we do all pruning and repotting in late to early spring after flowering. During the winter months, the temperatures are never allowed to drop below 50°F (10°C) at night. In the landscape, trees are very susceptible to frost.

Propagation: Eucalyptus citriodora are propagated by seed in the spring. The very small seed is surface sown on coarse sand and peat mixture and kept moist. Seeds germinate in 30-45 days at 70°F (22°C).