

Plant of the Month

August
2024

Common Name: Range Bloodwood
Scientific Name: *Corymbia abergiana*
(F.Muell.) K.D.Hill & L.A.S.Johnson
Family: Myrtaceae
Genus: *Corymbia* – refers to the shape of the collection of flowers or inflorescence.
Species epithet: Named for Ernst George Aberg (1823-1907) a Swedish physician who promoted the planting of *Eucalyptus* in Argentina.

Distribution

Coastal ranges of northern Queensland between Cairns and Mt Spec in the Paluma Range National Park.

Native Habitat

Dry woodlands on well drained sandy or rocky soils.

Description

A medium sized tree to 15 metres with tessellated, grey-brown to red-brown bark that is persistent around the trunk.

Flowers and Fruit

Large, creamy-white, fragrant, staminate flowers arranged to create a corymbiform inflorescence. This is a type of aggregation of flowers where the outer flowers in a cluster have longer stalks than the inner flowers creating a 'flat-topped' collection of flowers. Buds are green with a brown operculum cap which is ejected as flowers mature and emerge. Fruit is a woody capsule, urceolate in shape 20 to 30 mm long and 15 to 25 mm wide containing yellow-brown seeds.

Location in Garden

Eucalypt Lawn (Lawn 29) between the Henry Lawson and Victoria Lodge gates.

Information

What are commonly called Gum Trees or eucalypts comprise three genera of trees, *Eucalyptus*, *Angophora* and *Corymbia*. They are all in the family Myrtaceae, have staminate flowers, woody seed capsules, oil glands in their leaves and a distinctive 'cap' enclosing forming flowers. However, they have sufficient morphological and genetic differences to be divided into three botanical groups. Together they dominate the tree flora of Australian ecosystems, with over 70% of forest trees in Australia belonging to these genera.

Representatives of all three can be seen growing and flowering in Spring on our Eucalypt Lawn.

The Range Bloodwood is one of one hundred species of *Corymbia*, all but four are endemic to Australia. Flowers develop at the end of branches, with lower branches hanging down, allowing us to smell the flowers and watch the birds and bees foraging on the tree's abundant nectar.

