

January 2026

# Plant of the month

## Red Flowering Gum



**Common Name:** Red Flowering Gum

**Scientific Name:** *Corymbia ficifolia* varieties

**Family:** Myrtaceae

**Genus:** *Corymbia* from Latin, *corybium*.

A coryb refers to floral clusters which have stems at different levels yet terminate at about the same level.

**Species epithet:** *ficifolia*: Latin, *fici*, of figs and *folium*, leaf. Referring to leaves resembling shape of genus *Ficus*.



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### About

*Corymbia* is a genus of about 115 species of small to large trees and is closely related to *Eucalyptus* and *Angophora*. The three genera are known collectively as 'eucalypts' and they dominate many Australian landscapes.

*Corymbia ficifolia* was formerly known as *Eucalyptus ficifolia* and is one of around 80 eucalypts which were transferred in 1995 from the genus *Eucalyptus* to the newly created genus *Corymbia*.

Varieties of this showy species are widely cultivated in both Australia and overseas. It is grown throughout cooler coastal southern Australia as a street tree because of its massed colourful flowers which are highly attractive to humans, lorikeets and honeyeaters alike.

Grafting varieties onto resilient rootstock has resulted in improvements to this genus allowing successful growing in a wide range of climatic conditions, outside of its natural range in Western Australia. A range of dwarf varieties are also now available and colour stock (from the range of red, pink, orange and whites) can now be guaranteed.

### Native Habitat

They grow in sandy soil in open forests on slopes

### Distribution

Distribution is restricted to the south-east of Perth, east of Mt Frankland and Walpole, near Albany and in the Stirling Range, Western Australia.

### Description

Trees in the wild, are usually small and straggly, to 10m tall. They form a lignotuber. The adult leaves darker green above, paler below, stiff, with dense pinnate venation and usually lacking oil glands.

### Flowers

The flowers are brilliantly coloured red or pinkish or orange. Trees flower from Jan to May and in Sept.

### Fruit

The fruit is a woody urn-shaped capsule with the valves enclosed in the fruit. The seeds are prominently winged like those of the desert and northern bloodwoods.

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