

Eucalyptus obliqua

Kingdom: Plantae
Clade: Angiosperms
Order: Myrtales
Family: Myrtaceae
Genus: Eucalyptus
Species: E. obliqua



Common Names

Hindi: Safeda
Tamil: Thailamaram
Telugu: Neelgiri Chettu
Kannada: Eukaliputasu
Marathi: Nilgiri
Malayalam: Karpuravalli
Bengali: Eucalyptus
Gujarati: Nilgiri
Punjabi: Safeda
Odia: Nilgiri

Characteristic features

Origin: Native to south eastern Australia, including Tasmania and Victoria.

Growth: Eucalyptus obliqua is a large evergreen tree that can reach up to 90 meters (about 295 feet) in height, though typically it grows to about 50-70 meters.

Bark: The bark is rough, fibrous, and stringy, often shedding in long strips.

Leaves: Juvenile leaves are opposite, sessile, and ovate, while adult leaves are alternate, lanceolate, and can grow up to 20 cm long.

Flowers: Small, white to cream-colored flowers that appear in clusters from the leaf axils, usually in late summer to autumn.

Fruit: Woody, cup-shaped capsules containing small seeds.

Range: Found in wet forests and woodlands, often on fertile soils and in areas with high rainfall.

Soil: Prefers well-drained, fertile soils but can also grow in a variety of soil types.

Climate: Thrives in temperate climates with high rainfall.

Uses

1. Timber:

Wood Characteristics: Eucalyptus obliqua wood, commonly known as Tasmanian Oak, is hard, dense, and durable. It is pale to light brown in color.

Applications: Widely used in construction, flooring, furniture, and cabinetry. Also valued for its use in making plywood and paper.

2. Firewood:

Combustion Properties: The wood burns well, producing a high heat output, making it a popular choice for firewood.

3. Pulp and Paper:

Pulpwood: Used in the production of paper and pulp products due to its fibrous quality.

4. Erosion Control:

Reforestation: Used in reforestation and land rehabilitation projects to control soil erosion and restore degraded lands.

5. Ecological Role:

Habitat: Provides habitat for a variety of wildlife, including birds, insects, and mammals.

Biodiversity: Contributes to the biodiversity of the forests where it grows.

6. Ornamental:

Landscaping: Occasionally planted in large gardens and parks for its majestic appearance and shade.

Cultural Significance

While Eucalyptus obliqua does not have significant cultural or religious importance, it is a vital species in its native range, contributing to the ecology and economy through its various uses.

Cultivation and Care

Propagation: Typically propagated from seeds. Seeds do not require pretreatment and germinate readily.

Planting: Prefers full sun and well drained soil. Young trees may need protection from frost.

Watering: Requires regular watering until established. Mature trees are drought tolerant.

Pruning: Pruning is generally not necessary, but can be done to remove dead or diseased branches.