

## Raising White Gums from Seed

### *Eucalyptus viminalis*

Description: Tree to 30 m high (sometimes 50); bark smooth or persistent on lower trunk, grey to grey-black, shortly fibrous, hard, platy, smooth above, white, grey or yellow, shedding in long ribbons.



Trunk and Bark

## Leaves

Juvenile leaves opposite, lanceolate, dull green.



### Juvenile Foliage

Adult leaves disjunct, narrow-lanceolate or lanceolate, 8–20 cm long, 0.8–2.5 cm wide, green, glossy, concolorous.



### Adult Foliage

## Flowers and Buds

Umbellasters 3-flowered; peduncle narrowly flattened or angular, 4–8 mm long; pedicels terete, 0–3 mm long. Buds ovoid, 5–8 mm long, 3–5 mm diam., scar present; calytra hemispherical to conical, at least as long and as wide as hypanthium.



Flowers



Flowers and buds

## Fruit (Seed Capsules)

Fruit cylindrical, globose or ovoid, 4–8 mm long, 4–9 mm diam.; disc raised; valves exerted.



Fruit – seed capsules ready to harvest



Fruit – these seed capsules opened and released seed 3 days after harvesting

## **White gums are easy to raise from seed.**

The method below is from Prof. Jamie Kirkpatrick....

"They are easy to propagate - get mature capsules (but not open), dry in paper bag, shake when capsules are open, spread seed on bare ground or soil in pot, covering a little with soil, keep moist until established. If growing in pots treat harshly before planting out, as soft pot plants are marsupial fast food. A bit of protection from browsing also helps".



Open capsules and seed - 3 days after harvesting

### **Ten tips for planting out seedling trees.**

\* Caution: White gums should be planted well away from buildings. The branches are brittle and break easily.

1. Dig a hole slightly larger than the root-ball. Do not add fertiliser or animal manures.
2. In hot weather, plant in the early morning or late afternoon.
3. Immediately before planting, submerge each seedling completely in water until all the air bubbles disappear.
4. Seedlings should be planted deep enough so that the original potting mix is completely covered with soil. It is common practice to have a little of the

seedling stem under the ground. This keeps the seedling's potting soil and root ball moist for longer.

5. When back filling around a newly planted tree, make sure there is firm contact between the potting mix root-ball and the soil. Any air gaps will cause the root-ball to dry out.

6. When planting on heavy clay soils and during wet weather, be careful not to over firm the soil. Too firm a soil will prevent root growth.

7. Leave a slight depression around the tree to catch and retain moisture.

8. Water the ground thoroughly after planting

9. Apply mulch, mulch mats and tree guards and/or a watering system if required. Mulch must not touch the stem. Leave enough room for air to circulate, so the stem won't rot.

10. Plants should not be staked unless absolutely necessary. If staking is required, for some reason, the stake should be thin and flexible enough to guide the trunk while allowing some movement.

#### Reference:

Description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Eucalyptus~viminalis>

photos: Elaine McDonald