

Eucalyptus diversicolor

“Karri”

MYRTACEAE



Taxonomic description:

The Karri is a medium/tall tree that grows up to be anywhere from 30feet to upwards of 250 feet tall and the trunks girth is around 27feet in diameter. Its name "diversicolor" comes from the characteristics of the leaves it produces, which have different colors on each side (of the leaf). The *E. diversicolor's* bark also changes colors over time and ranges from pinkish to white. Its leaves are about 10cm in length, elliptical in shape, dark green topside, and pale green bottom side. Alongside the leaves is where the fruit clusters appear. The Karri flowers in spring up to mid-summer in groups of 7 and contains many little dry seeds. Karri flowers attract nectar eating birds. Flowering is also stimulated by fires. In most cases there is only one trunk that extends straight up and has no branches until the top third of the tree. But in some cases 2 trunks can grow simultaneously from the seedling.

Growth Form/Habitat/Soil:

Originating from Southwestern Australia, the Karri grows in areas with an abundance of rainfall; however, the soil is not rich, as most nutrients come from the decomposed tree bark and burnt trees that collect near trunk of the tree. The soil can be as deep as 18feet deep, which is necessary for the tree to reach its full height. Karri often dwell in deep valleys and near creeks and rivers which were created due to runoff.

Distribution:

Karri is found in the southwestern are of Australia which is a Mediterranean climate. It is mainly seen in the warren biogeographic region of Australia.

Propagation/Reproduction

Flowering is stimulated by fires, and propagated by seeds which germinate regularly. The biggest problem is that the Karri cannot regenerate from its trunk as many eucalyptuses can, instead if they fall, or burn, they die. In other words, karris only grow from the seed.

Uses

There are many uses of the Karri tree. Being a hardwood, it was used in the streets of Australia as roads, also in London too. It is also used as fire-lookout "towers", in addition to being great wood for indoor and outdoor furniture; it is also used as building material for roofs and other parts of homes.

References:

San Francisco Botanical Garden.

<http://trees.stanford.edu/ENCYC/EUCdiv.htm>

<http://anpsa.org.au/e-div.html>

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/09/ClimbingTheGloucesterTree_2005_SeanMcClean.jpg

Plant Information Sheet by Adnan Alisic (Botany 10, Spring 2011)