

INFORMATION SHEET

EUCALYPTS



Common and botanical names:

The Eastern Blue Gum group. *E. saligna* and *E. botryoides*

The Stringybark group. *E. muelleriana*, *E. globoidea*, *E. eugenoides*, *E. microcorys*, *E. pilularis*.

The Ash group. *E. delegatensis*, *E. fastigata*, *E. regnans*, *E. obliqua*.

APPEARANCE AND DESCRIPTION:

- The heartwood of the blue gums, *E. saligna* and *E. botryoides* is dark pink to reddish brown with a paler sapwood.
- The heartwood of the stringybark group species is yellowish-brown with a pink tinge, and the sapwood paler.
- The heartwood of *E. fastigata* is predominantly pale brown with occasional purplish flecks. *E. obliqua* looks very like European oak. The heartwood of *E. regnans* and *E. delegatensis* is pale pink or light brown that is sometimes difficult to differentiate from the pale sapwood. It has a moderate-coarse texture and straight grain.

PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

Durability:

- The heartwood of all the blue gum and stringybark species are durable in ground contact, lasting 15 to 25 years in ground contact and up to 40 years out of ground contact, giving an equivalent durability of H3.2.
- The ash group species are only moderately durable, lasting 5 to 15 years in ground contact giving an equivalent durability of H3.1.

MECHANICAL PROPERTIES:

Strength values refer to 20 x 20mm clearwood specimens in the dry condition.

Species	Air-dry Density*	Bending Strength	Modulus of Elasticity	Compression Strength	Hardness	Shrinkage Green to 12% M.C.	
						Tangential	Radial
	kg/m ³	MPa	GPa	MPa	kN	%	%
Delegatensis	540	113	12.4	57.6	4.8	6.5	3.2
Fastigata	600	121	13.2	59.6	4.2	5.0	2.7
Obliqua	585	114	14.1	55.5	5.2	4.7	2.4
Regnans	680	119	13.4	59.2	6.3	5.5	3.4
Nitens	700	138	15.6	68.2	6.3	8.2	3.1
Botryoides	690	96	11.0	56.1	5.6	6.0	2.6
Saligna	660	91	11.1	56.1	5.2	7.0	3.8
Globoidea	726	132	14.6	66.7	6.9	4.5	2.6
Muelleriana	870	104	10.1	57.4	5.5	5.2	2.1
Pilularis	738	114	13.4	67.2	5.9	5.2	2.9

* Air-dry means weight and volume at 12% moisture content.

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Machining:

Difficulties with eucalypts relate mainly to the sawing of logs, where growth stresses may be a problem, and with drying, as some species are collapse-prone.

SUSTAINABILITY:

- New Zealand has 28575 hectares planted in eucalypts, with a median age less than 10 years. Approximately 7.5% is of millable age (MAF NEFD 2007)
- The most available sawn timber species are *E. Saligna* and *E. Botryoides*, *E. Delegatensis*, and *E. pilularis*.

Contact your local branch of the New Zealand Farm Forestry Association to find suppliers of Eucalypts in your area: www.nzffa.org.nz