

Beard's Mallee *Eucalyptus beardiana*



NATIVE PLANT NOTES

Description

This is a small spreading tree that grows to about 4 m and is found naturally in a restricted area of the northern sandplains of south-western Australia. Although it generally grows with a single trunk in cultivation it can form multiple trunks and has smooth grey or cream bark with dark red branchlets. Its light, grey-green leaves are long and narrow, up to 15 cm long.

Flowers

The flowers appear in late winter to early spring. As is typical of many eucalypts the developing buds are a feature of this small tree. These mature over a number of months in pendulous inflorescences with up to eleven buds in each. They are about 2 cm in length with a 'beaked' or conical operculum (bud cap) and a cup-shaped base. When the flowers appear they are creamy white and hang in showy clusters.

Growing conditions

So far *E. beardiana* has not been grown extensively in home gardens. Beard's Mallee requires a well-drained, sunny spot and is tolerant of drought conditions and light to moderate frosts. It is advisable to plant in late autumn and early winter when the soil is still warm and there is the likelihood of rain to follow.

Watering

Water well at the time of planting and monitor the soil moisture during the first winter. Water during dry spells of that winter and the following spring and twice a week during the first summer and autumn. Thereafter, it should not be necessary to give extra water unless there is a prolonged dry spell.

Pruning

Beard's Mallee may branch and become multi-trunked at an early stage because of its natural mallee habit or it may grow with a single trunk. It is best left to form without pruning, with only light pruning to retain its form.

Fertiliser

Apply a slow-release 8–9 month native fertiliser at time of planting and this can be repeated annually if thought necessary.

Pests and diseases

This species can be susceptible to scale.

Miscellaneous

The word *mallee* describes eucalypt species that have multiple stems arising from a lignotuber or swelling at the base. However, *The Mallee* refers to a semi-arid region where these species predominate.

Beard's Mallee was named for Dr John Beard, long-serving former Director of Kings Park and creator of the Kings Park Botanic Garden.



Further Information

Gardening Advisory Service, a free service provided by Kings Park Volunteer Master Gardeners.
Phone: (08) 9480 3672 or Email: garden.advice@bgpa.wa.gov.au.

Pest and Diseases Information Service, Department of Agriculture and Food.
Freecall 1800 084 881 Email: info@agric.wa.gov.au or visit www.agric.wa.gov.au.