

Small-leaved Mottlecah *Eucalyptus macrocarpa* subsp. *elachantha*



Description

The Small-leaved Mottlecah is a more compact and less sprawling subspecies than *E. macrocarpa* subsp. *macrocarpa* growing 0.8–4 m high with attractive grey leaves that are almost as wide (7 cm) as they are long (10 cm), but smaller than its more southern and inland relative. It has smooth grey to salmon-pink bark and striking large flowers. This subspecies of the beautiful and popular *Eucalyptus macrocarpa* is confined in the wild to the northern sandplains.

Flowers

The buds of this species are covered in a white bloom and open to reveal very large, pink to red flowers around 6–8 cm across. Offset by the decorative grey foliage, the flowers are an attractive feature between August and September. They are sessile (stalkless) and appear singly on the stems. The large fruit are about 6 cm across.

Growing conditions

These plants naturally occur on white or grey sand over laterite so they require a well-drained, sunny position. They are best planted in the autumn and winter months.

Watering

Water well at planting time and monitor soil moisture until the next winter. Give a deep watering 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

This tree may not respond well to pruning and there should be little need for it as it has a compact habit.

Fertiliser

Apply slow-release 8-9 month fertiliser at planting and thereafter yearly if soils warrant it.

Pests and diseases

This species can be susceptible to scale and caterpillar attack when young.

Miscellaneous

The word *elachantha* means small or short. In this case it is intended as a reference to the fact that the leaves are smaller and the tree is more compact than the more commonly grown *E. macrocarpa* subsp. *macrocarpa*.



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.