

## Square-fruited Mallet *Eucalyptus brandiana*



### NATIVE PLANT NOTES

#### Description

The Square-fruited Mallet is a small upright tree growing to about 5 m. It has smooth bark and a trunk that is unusually square when juvenile. Its leaves are very large (20 cm long and 5 cm wide), thick and rigid and are a dark, glossy-green with a well-defined mid-rib. The form and foliage, combined with its bright red buds and large fruit are attractive features of this tree.

#### Flowers

Flowers appear in the leaf axils and take several months to develop. When nearing maturity they are an attractive feature—bright red and square-shaped with prominent 'wings' at each corner. The operculum (bud cap) is a pyramid shape and when it falls it reveals many long bright pink stamens forming the flower. The fruits are large, attractive and winged.

#### Growing conditions

This is a tree from the south coast on free-draining soils, so a well-drained site is advisable. *E. brandiana* prefers a sunny open position, but can tolerate some shade. It should be planted in late autumn to early winter when rains are expected.

#### Watering

Water well at the time of planting and monitor the moisture in the soil during the first winter and spring. Ensure the tree has a deep watering twice a week in the first summer and into the following autumn until rains return. Once established it should only require supplementary watering during extended dry periods.

#### Pruning

As this is a small tree with an upright habit it should not require pruning.

#### Fertiliser

Apply 8-9 month slow-release fertiliser at time of planting and thereafter annually if necessary for the soil-type.

#### Pests and diseases

This species can be susceptible to scale.

#### Miscellaneous

The term *mallet* refers to a form of tree that has a single trunk and lacks a lignotuber. It is applicable to particular types of trees occurring only in Western Australia. The word *mallee*, however, is used to describe trees that grow several branches from a lignotuber at the base of the plant forming a number of trunks.



#### Further Information

Gardening Advisory Service, a free service provided by Kings Park Volunteer Master Gardeners.  
Phone: (08) 9480 3672 Email: [garden.advice@bgpa.wa.gov.au](mailto: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](mailto:info@agric.wa.gov.au) or visit [www.agric.wa.gov.au](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au).