

Silver Princess *Eucalyptus caesia*



NATIVE PLANT NOTES

Description

This graceful, weeping tree grows to 6 m high. Its young stems, leaves, buds and fruit are blue-green in colour and are covered in a showy white, waxy bloom, that is, they are glaucous. The mature trunk has decorative minni-ritchi bark—bark that peels in small curly flakes but does not detach. The trunk, bark, foliage, flowers and fruit are all very appealing attributes.

Flowers

Silver Princess flowers range in colour from pink to red and are up to 4 cm in diameter. It is a signature plant heralding the winter months. The spectacular showy flowers occur in clusters and produce nectar which is a great food source for birds during winter.

Growing conditions

This plant occurs naturally on granite outcrops and thrives in all soil types, but it is important that the site is free-draining and in full sun. The Silver Princess is best planted in the autumn and winter months.

Watering

Water well at planting time and monitor soil moisture until rains return in the following winter. Give a deep watering twice a week through the first summer. Once established, it should not require further water, except during prolonged dry spells.

Pruning

This tree has a natural irregular and weeping form that forms part of its character and it is therefore difficult to prune. Some light pruning can be done once established if desired, including cutting stems for floral arrangements. Selective removal of some fruits will reduce branch weight and risk of splitting. It can be cut at the base and allowed to re-shoot.

Fertiliser

Apply slow-release native-blend 8–9 month fertiliser at the time of planting and annually as required in the spring months.

Pests and diseases

This species sometimes gets scale and is prone to wind damage, but usually recovers readily. Any damaged branches can be pruned carefully.

Miscellaneous

Plant the Silver Princess as a specimen tree or in groups. *Eucalyptus caesia* is threatened in the wild but has been a garden favourite for many years.



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.