

Illyarrie

Eucalyptus erythrocorys



Description

When in flower the Illyarrie is a spectacular eucalypt. The contrasting bright yellow flowers and red bud caps, along with its small size—up to 10 m high and 3–6 m wide—make this tree an outstanding specimen for the garden. The bark is smooth but can have a few rough patches where it persists on the trunk instead of being shed.

Flowers

Flowering is generally from February to April; however, in cultivation trees often flower until May. The bright yellow flowers are 50–60 mm wide. They will attract many birds to the garden.

Growing conditions

Eucalyptus erythrocorys needs an alkaline to slightly acidic soil, plenty of sunshine and good drainage. It is advisable to plant in late autumn or 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 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

In cultivation trees may lose limbs due to the weight of heavy fruit. Pruning off the fruit can alleviate this problem. When necessary trees can be pruned hard, almost to ground level—this results in regrowth from the trunk and lignotuber.

Fertiliser

Apply a slow-release native plant fertiliser at time of planting and if necessary for the first few years.

Pests and diseases

In the home garden, this species is rarely susceptible to pests or diseases.

Miscellaneous information

The species name *erythrocorys* comes from Greek *erythro*, red and *korys*, helmet, referring to the bright red operculum.



Further Information

Gardening Advisory Service, a free service provided by Kings Park Volunteer Master Gardeners. Phone: 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.