

## Bookleaf Mallee *Eucalyptus kruseana*



### NATIVE PLANT NOTES

#### Description

*Eucalyptus kruseana* is an unusual and very attractive small tree growing to about 2 m high by 1.5 m wide. 'Bookleaf' accurately describes the closeness of the tiny, round, blue-grey, stalkless leaves which cling densely to the branches. In cultivation the species often develops a single trunk rather than the multiple stems of a mallee. The bark of the main stem is reddish brown, but splits longitudinally and rolls at the edges to reveal pale green inner bark. This interesting feature is known as minni-ritchi bark. *E. kruseana* may flower while still very young and is popular in cultivation due to its attractive bark, foliage, buds, flowers and fruit.

#### Flowers

The buds, which are borne in clusters, open to reveal creamy-yellow flowers in autumn to winter, offset by the lovely grey foliage. They are not individually large, but are grouped so that they encircle the branches like floral bracelets.

#### Growing conditions

The Bookleaf Mallee thrives in most soil types, including coastal sands, but it is important that the site is free-draining and sunny. It is best planted in the autumn and winter months and it will tolerate frost.

#### Watering

Water well at the time of planting and monitor the soil moisture during the first winter. It may be necessary to water during dry spells of that winter and the following spring. 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

Prune at an early age to establish the desired form. Maintain the shape by light pruning or cutting the attractive foliage for floral arrangements. This tree can withstand hard pruning.

#### Fertiliser

Apply slow-release native-blend 8–9 month fertiliser at time of planting.

#### Pests and diseases

In the home garden, this species can be susceptible to caterpillars, especially when young.

#### Miscellaneous

The very attractive young stems, buds and fruit are blue- or grey-green with a white, waxy bloom, that is, they are glaucous.



#### 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](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).