

## Bell-fruited Mallee *Eucalyptus preissiana*



# NATIVE PLANT NOTES

### Description

*Eucalyptus preissiana* is an attractive low, shrub-like species of eucalypt growing to about 3 m high and 2 m wide. It has smooth bark and thick, stiff, grey-green leaves. Its large bell-shaped fruits, which remain on the plant for many years unless picked, provide interest when the tree is not in flower.

### Flowers

In spring, the trees produce rich yellow blossoms, about 3 cm in diameter that are highly ornamental, as are its fruit. Flowering can occur when the tree is quite young, delivering an early reward.

### Growing conditions

The Bell-fruited 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. It will withstand frost once established but needs protection when young.

### Watering

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

### Pruning

Prune lightly at an early age to retain a compact form and after flowering if desired to maintain shape.

### Fertiliser

Apply slow-release native-blend 8–9 month fertiliser at time of planting and if necessary for the first few years.

### Pests and diseases

This species can be susceptible to scale.

### Miscellaneous

The word *mallee* is used to describe any species of eucalypt having multiple stems arising from a lignotuber, or swelling at the base.



### 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).