

## Pear-fruited Mallee *Eucalyptus pyriformis*



# NATIVE PLANT NOTES

### Description

*Eucalyptus pyriformis* is a highly ornamental open, shrub-like species of eucalypt growing to about 3 m high and 3 m wide. In cultivation, it usually grows with a single trunk but can be multi-stemmed. It has smooth bark, often shiny red and contrasting with the thick, pale, grey-green leaves. Its large, ribbed, pear-shaped buds and big, hemispherical fruits provide interest when the tree is not in flower.

### Flowers

Flowering occurs between May and October with large white, cream, yellow or red flowers, some 6 cm across. They are usually clustered in twos or threes and produce abundant nectar and pollen providing a good food source for wildlife.

### Growing conditions

The Pear-fruited Mallee thrives in most soil types but it is important that the site is free-draining and sunny. It is best planted in the autumn and winter months and although frost tolerant when established, may need some protection when young.

### 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

If planted in a full-sun position this species is best left to develop without pruning and will naturally produce a good form. Prune lightly if desired to maintain the shape. It can be coppiced once well established to rejuvenate the tree.

### Fertiliser

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

### Pests and diseases

The species is rarely susceptible to pests or diseases.

### Miscellaneous

The word *mallee* is used to describe any species of eucalypt having multiple stems arising from a lignotuber, or swelling at the base. However, *The Mallee* refers to a semi-arid region where these species predominate.



### 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).