

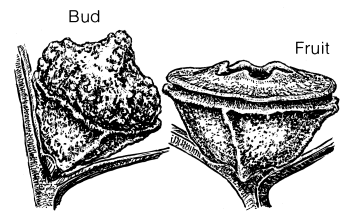
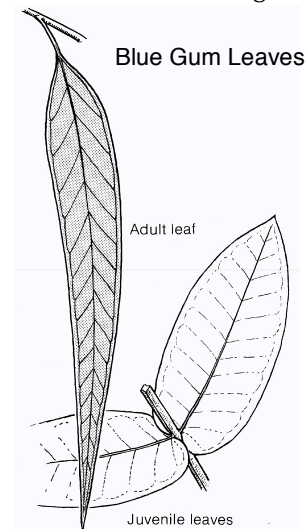
SMOOTH-BARKED GUMS – DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE?

... *Ellinor Campbell*

Several smooth-barked Eucalypts grow in the forested areas in our district. The bark at the base of their trunks is rough and dark, but, on the upper trunk and branches, the bark is mainly smooth, pale, and shed annually in ribbons or strips. The flowers are creamy-white or white.

Blue Gums *Eucalyptus globulus*

Blue Gums are tall, fast growing trees, with the upper trunk and branches displaying patches of grey, blue, cream or brown. Two of their most appealing features are the strong eucalyptus aroma, and their beautiful, large, bluish-white, waxy, juvenile leaves. The adult leaves are 30 cm long, lance-shaped, glossy dark-green, thick and leathery, and hang vertically. The buds are very distinctive, being large, warty, and having caps with a central point. There are three sub-species, which are differentiated by their buds and fruit; however, hybridisation occurs. Information about the sub-species can be found in *Flowers of Anglesea and Aireys Inlet*.

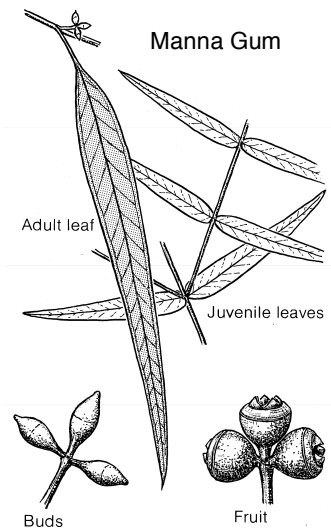


Blue Gum Bud & Fruit

Manna Gum *Eucalyptus viminalis* subsp. *viminalis*

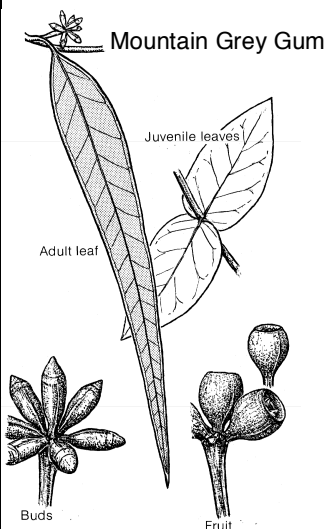
These trees are common, widespread, and variable in size, growing up to 45 metres in forests. A feature is the conspicuous, long, ribbony bark hanging from the upper tree. The buds are spindle-shaped, and usually in threes in the form of a cross, though they can be up to seven sometimes. The summer flowers have a fragrant honey-like smell. The fruit is rounded, with three or four projecting valves.

Juvenile leaves, which are favoured by koalas, are narrow and a brighter green. Adult leaves grow up to 20 cm long. (A sub-species, **Rough-barked Manna Gum** *E. viminalis* subsp. *cygnetensis*, has rough bark persistent on the trunk and larger branches.)



Grey-gums

We are fortunate in having two Grey Gums in our district: **Mountain Grey-gum** *E. cypellocarpa*, and the endemic species **Anglesea Grey-gum** *E. litoralis*. The upper trunks are usually smooth, grey and often have yellow patches. The most distinctive feature of both is the stalks long and flattened that hold the buds and fruit. Both species have similar lance-shaped, dark-green, adult leaves, and broad juvenile leaves. The cylindrical buds and barrel-shaped fruit are usually in clusters of seven, with the fruit having valves (a portion of the fruit that splits open to reveal seeds) below the rim.



Mountain Grey-gum is a straight forest tree to 50 metres. The bark at the base of the trunk is dark, rough and persistent. The leaves grow up to 25 cm long, and the barrel-shaped fruit usually has one or two fine ribs.

Anglesea Grey-gum is often multi-trunked, and is much smaller than *E. cypellocarpa*. It grows to 18 metres, in poor soils on sandy ridges and slopes. The leaves may be longer, growing to 18–35 cm, and the slightly larger fruit is usually smooth, though sometimes, moderately ribbed. The shape of the flower bud is distinctive, being ribbed, somewhat urn-shaped, broader at the base, and slightly waisted at or above the mid-point.

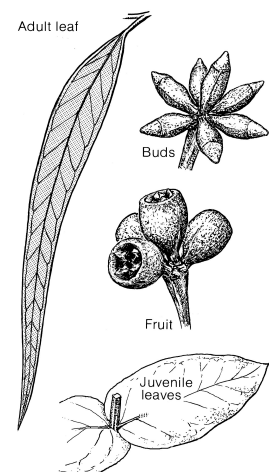
References:

MacDonald, Margaret (ed) 2009, *Flowers of Anglesea and Aireys Inlet*, ANGAIR Inc., Anglesea.

Leon Costermans 1994, *Trees of Victoria and Adjoining Areas*, Costermans Publishing, Frankston.

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Anglesea Grey-gum



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