



***Eucalyptus* sp.**

Family: Myrtaceae

Common names: Spheda, Blue gum



Description:

Eucalyptus is a native of Australia. Leaves are narrow, sickle-shaped and dark shining green. The buds are top-shaped, ribbed and warty and have a flattened operculum (cap on the flower bud) bearing a central knob. Flowers are cream- coloured and produce copious nectar that yields a strongly flavoured honey. The fruits are woody and range from 1.5–2.5 cm in diameter. Seeds are numerous and small.

Utilization:

It is one of the most extensively planted tree. Its rapid growth and adaptability to a range of conditions is responsible for its popularity. Timber is yellow- brown, fairly heavy, and can be used in construction, fence post and poles. Eucalyptus oil is extracted from the leaves by steam distillation. The oil has various properties like therapeutic, perfumery, flavouring, antimicrobial and bio-pesticide (Yang *et al.*, 2004). The leaves of this tree can be used as herbal tea.

Part	Uses
Oil	Respiratory problems
Leaves	Antioxidant and antibacterial activity

References:

Toshihiko O and Namiki M; (1985) "Natural antioxidants isolated from Eucalyptus leaf waxes." *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry* 33.5 (1985): 777-780.
Boland, Douglas J, Brophy J.J and House A.P.N; (1991) "Eucalyptus leaf oils: use, chemistry, distillation and marketing."