Eucalyptus species

Propagation of Eucalyptus (including Corymbia and Angophora)

Pre-treatment

Some Eucalyptus species, particularly those from alpine regions either require or benefit from cold treatment or cold stratification. This is the artificial reproduction of the seed wintering in the open. Seed should be placed in a medium of lightly damp sand, the lot placed in a ziplock plastic bag and placed in the crisper section of your refrigerator. Check seed weekly for any germination, to maintain the medium lightly moist and to check for any fungus or mould. If seed has germinated during stratification sow immediately. If any mould or fungus should occur then make up a new batch of medium, treat the seed with a small amount of fungicide, place in a fresh ziplock bag and continue stratification. At the end of the stratification period sow your seed. A list of stratification times for specific species is set out below. If in doubt stratify, and if you have doubts as to an appropriate period then stratify for 6 weeks. Stratification will not damage seed but those species requiring stratification will either not germinate or germinate very unevenly over time.

Sowing and Germination

Fill seed boxes with loamy soil covered with a heavy sprinkling of sand. Sow the seed, pressing it down firmly with a flat board, and water several times a day. A sheet of glass over the box provides hothouse conditions of warmth and moisture, and assists germination, which usually takes place in two or three weeks.

Pricking Out

When the young seedlings have the second pair of leaves, they should be transferred into suitable pots so that when they are put into permanent positions, roots are not unduly disturbed.

Planting Out

Plant out at the point where they are between 20cm and 40cm and preferably in the spring after the danger of frost has passed. Water in well and then as needed. One practical way of overcoming the problem of root disturbance is to use a container that can have the bottom removed and to transplant to this container and then plant the whole thing in the permanent site in due course.

To keep the tree straight and true eucalyptus often benefit from staking, although a better way is often to anchor the seedling firmly with several rocks place strategically on the soil surface. Young Eucalyptus are often nibbled by browsing stock and wildlife, so it can be advisable to give them some protection in the early stages. A coil of chicken wire or similar that surrounds but does not touch the foliage can be ideal.

Some Eucalyptus species benefit from a period of cold moist stratification at a temperature of 3 to 5°C.

Mining industry revegetation experimentation and propagation in the northern hemisphere has revealed the following information.

Stratification time	Eucalyptus Species
6 weeks	E. alpina
4	E. aggregata
4	E. apiculata
4	E. approximans
6	E. coccifera
4	E. crenulata
4	E. cypellocarpa
4	E. dalrympleana
8	E. delegatensis
4	E. denticulata
4	E. fastigiata
3	E. fraxinoides
6	E. glaucescens
3	E. globulus
4	E. gregsoniana
4	E. johnstonii
4	E. kybeanensis
6	E. lacrimans
4	E. laevopinea
4	E. lingustrina
4	E. macarthurii
4	E. melliodora
5	E. mitchelliana
5	E. moorei
4	E. neglecta
4	E. nitens
6	E. nitida
4	E. obliqua
4	E. olsenii
6	E. ovata
4	E. paliformis
6	E. pauciflora and subspecies
4	E. perriniana
4	E. pulverulenta
4	E. radiata
4	E.regnans
4	E.rodwayi

4	E.rubida
4	E.rupicola
6	E.saxitilis
4	E.spectatrix
5	E.stellulata
4	E.stentosoma
4	E.strzeleckii
4	E.subcrenulata
4	E.tenuiramis
6	E.vernicosa
4	E.willisii
4	E.yarraensis
4	E. youmanii