

# Marri



Scientific name: *Corymbia calophylla*

Aboriginal name: Marri (Noongar)



Plant habit



Resin



Foliage and nut



Flower

## About ...

Also known as a 'Red Gum' this tree is native to the south-west of WA; however, small pockets are also found north of Perth up towards Geraldton.

It is resistant to 'dieback' disease (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*).

The 'honky nuts' were made famous by May Gibbs, author of the classic story, Snugglepot and Cuddlepie. 'Marri' comes from the Aboriginal Noongar language, where it is known as a medicine tree because of the red gum or 'kino'. This was sprinkled onto wounds to prevent bleeding or mixed with water as a mouthwash or disinfectant as the tannin has antiseptic qualities. Large quantities of the powdered gum were used to tan kangaroo skins.

## Aboriginal Uses



- Resin or 'kino' can be used as a medicine to treat an upset stomach
- Mixed with water, the resin can be rubbed on skin to treat eczema
- Seeds can be eaten
- The blossoms (called 'Ngumbit') are soaked in water to make a sweet drink

**Family** MYRTACEAE

**Climate** Temperate

**Habitat** It is an important part of the Jarrah and Karri forests of Western Australia. It also occurs on the coastal plain on a range of soils

**Form** Large tree  
Height: 40 - 60 m  
The bark is rough, brown to grey-brown, and often has reddish gum or resin

**Foliage** Mid-to-bright green leaves with red stems  
Tough  
Evergreen

**Flower** Birak to Djeran (December to May)  
Creamy white or pink flowers  
Bee attracting

**Nut** Also called 'Honky Nuts'  
Large, carrying large seeds  
Urn-shaped  
Start out green and change to brown

Developed by SERCUL for use with the *Bush Tucker Education Program*.



Used as food



Used as medicine



Used as resources



Local to SW WA

**Caution:** Do not prepare bush tucker food without having been shown by Indigenous or experienced persons. Some bush tucker if eaten in large quantities or not prepared correctly can cause illness.