

Eucalyptus salubris

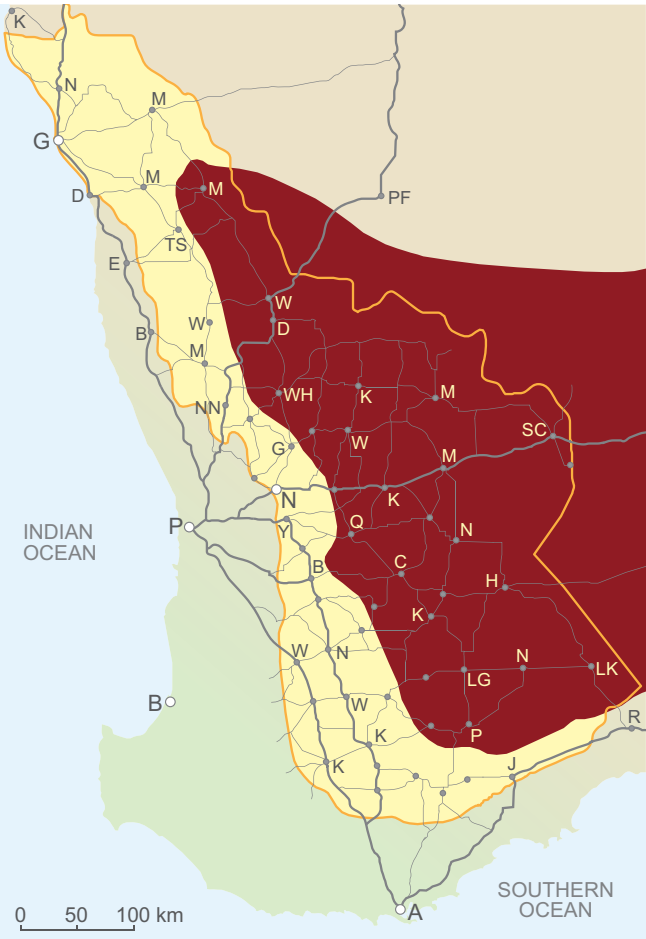
gimlet, fluted gum

**Name:** Latin, *salubris*, healthy, possibly in reference to the healthy appearance of the tree. The common name refers to the fluted or twisted trunks, resembling a carpenter’s gimlet (a boring tool).

**Authority:** *Eucalyptus salubris* F.Muell., *Fragm.* 10: 54 (1876). Type: Between Queen Victoria Spring and Ularung, W.A., 9 Oct. 1875, J.Young.

**Features:** Obligate seeder, lignotuber absent. Usually single trunk. Trunk variably fluted (grooved). Bark smooth, shiny, seasonally colourful, from grey to greenish brown to reddish brown. Adult leaves narrow, very glossy, green. Buds oval-shaped with short, flat stalks.

**Distribution & Habitat:** *Eucalyptus salubris* has one of the largest distributions of all eucalypts in the south of Western Australia, with scattered populations occurring from northern, central and south-eastern wheatbelt regions, eastward through the goldfields to the Sydney Simpson Cliffs in the Great Victoria Desert. It usually occurs in heavy, often deep red loam soils, forming pure stands or with common associates, *E. salmonophloia* and *E. longicornis*. Other associated eucalypts include *E. armillata*, *E. celastroides*, *E. erythronema*,



Eucalyptus subg. Symphyomyrtus  
sect. Bisectae ser. Contortae

*E. livida*, *E. loxophleba* subspp. *loxophleba* and *lissophloia*, *E. melanoxylon*, *E. moderata*, *E. myriadena*, *E. pileata*, *E. polita*, *E. proluxa*, *E. sheathiana*, *E. vittata* and *E. yilgarnensis*.

**Uses:** *Eucalyptus salubris* is an obligate seeder and this life history enhances its success in direct seeding revegetation programmes throughout the wheatbelt, particularly in areas with heavy loam soils. The wood is very dense and honey-brown in colour and is used for flooring, panelling, furniture and musical instruments. Produces burls which are often striped with resin and are prized for craft wood.

**Notes:** *Eucalyptus salubris* often occurs in attractive, almost pure stands and is a conspicuous species readily recognised in the field by its erect, grooved (often twisted), shiny, intensely-coloured trunks and by its dense canopy of very glossy leaves. Although the shape of the buds is very consistent across its distribution, the size is quite variable, ranging from 5 mm long in north-west populations to 15 mm long in eastern populations.

*Eucalyptus salubris* is one of nine species (eight mallets and one mallee) belonging to *E. series Contortae* (the gimlets), a group characterised primarily by having smooth, fluted, shiny, multi-coloured trunks. *Eucalyptus salubris* is the most widely distributed gimlet and can be distinguished from other mallet species in the series by its non-glaucous branchlets, seven-flowered umbels and small, pedicellate fruits. The other mallet species in *E. series Contortae* are confined to the goldfields and to the north-eastern Esperance Plains, and comprise *E. campaspe*, *E. creta*, *E. diptera*, *E. jimberlanica*, *E. ravida*, *E. terebra* and *E. tortilis*. *Eucalyptus effusa* is the only mallee (resprouter) gimlet species, occurring as very scattered populations from south-west of Sandstone eastwards to the Fraser Range and the Morton Craig Range.

Two other groups of eucalypts—species of *E. ser. Erectae* subser. *Abundae* and species within *E. subser. Annulatae*—share fluted trunks with the gimlets, however, this feature is not as prominent or consistent and the species within these two groups also have other distinguishing characteristics.



**Description:** **Mallet**, to 15 metres tall, lignotuber absent, obligate seeder. Erect habit, dense crown. Trunks and branches fluted or grooved longitudinally, occasionally twisted or spiralled. **Bark** smooth, glossy, seasonally multi-coloured, grey to creamy yellow or yellow-green to dark green or dark brown to reddish brown or chestnut red. **Branchlets** with pith glared. **Juvenile leaves** lanceolate, dull, green. Seedling stems often glaucous, particularly in the eastern wheatbelt areas. **Adult leaves** narrow-lanceolate to lanceolate, 45–105 mm x 7–18 mm, very glossy, green. **Umbels** 7-flowered, held on flattened peduncles, 5–10 mm long. **Buds** ovoid, 5–10(15) mm long x 2–5 mm wide, subsessile or with pedicels to 5 mm long. **Opercula** broadly conical. **Flowers** white, occurring in summer and autumn. **Fruits** cupular to obconical, 3–7 mm long x 4–7 mm wide, pedicellate, rim thick, disc level to ascending, valves 3 or 4, exserted. **Seeds** brown.