

Eucalyptus cerasiformis

cherry-fruited mallee

Name: From the Latin *cerasi* (of cherries) and *formis* (form), referring to its pendulous, cherry-like clusters of flower buds.

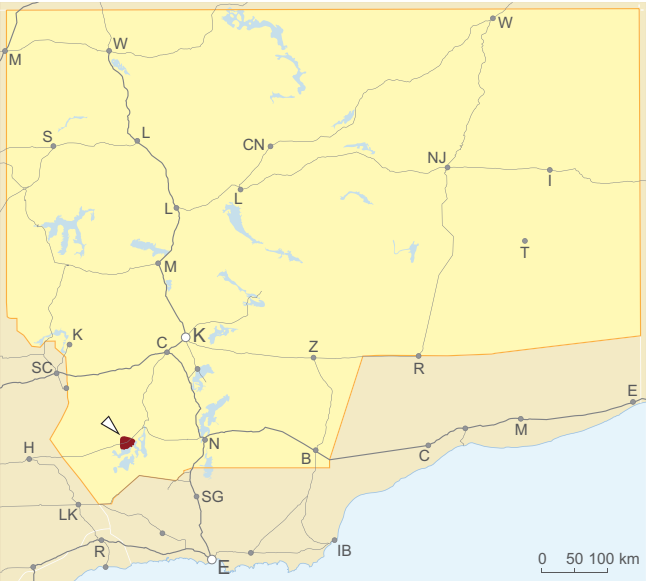
Authority: *Eucalyptus cerasiformis* Brooker & Blaxell, *Nuytsia* 2(4): 226 (1978). Type: 164 km (by road) east of Hyden towards Norseman, WA, 3 Oct 1975, D.F.Blaxell W75/51 (holo: NSW; iso: CANB).

Key features: Multi-stemmed mallee, lignotuber resprouter. Bark smooth, pale-coloured, shedding in ribbons. Buds and fruits in groups of 7, held on long, pendulous group stalks that are round in cross-section. Buds acorn-shaped. Fruit smooth, urn-shaped.

Distribution & Habitat: WA (endemic to the goldfields). Restricted to the Mount Day area, west of Lake Johnston in the south-western goldfields. It occurs on gently undulating terrain, on pale brown gravelly soil to red clay-loams. Associated eucalypts include *E. calycogona* subsp. *calycogona*, *E. incernata*, *E. livida*, *E. loxophleba* subsp. *lissophloia*, *E. pertenuis*, *E. salubris*, *E. urna* subsp. *urna* and *E. yilgarnensis*.

Notes: An attractive smooth-barked mallee of very restricted distribution, distinguished from all known associates by its very long, pendulous peduncles (up to 40 mm long) and its distinctive, cherry-like buds which are constricted around the middle.

The closely-related but more widespread *E. cylindriflora* (goldfields white mallee) differs from *E. cerasiformis* in its erect-held (non-pendulous), cylinder-shaped buds and fruits which are very different in shape to those of *E. cerasiformis*. *Eucalyptus cylindriflora* has a large distribution, occurring through the central-western goldfields, extending marginally into the wheatbelt and onto the Esperance plains in the south.



subgenus *Symphyomyrtus*
sect. *Glandulosae*, ser. *Elongatae*

Another close relative is *E. dielsii* (cap-fruited mallet), which occurs further south in the Esperance to Ravensthorpe area and differs from *E. cerasiformis* in its non-lignotuberous, single-trunked mallet habit (it is an obligate seeder) and its fruits which have a distinctive flared rim.

Conservation status: A rare species that is not known in any reserves. It is threatened by ongoing mining activity.

World:	IUCN Red List: Vulnerable (2025).
National:	EPBC Act 1999: Not listed (2025).
State (WA):	BC Act 2016: Not listed (2025).
State (WA):	DBCA: Priority 4 (2025).



Painting of seedling from north of Lake Johnston



Track to the Bremer Range, near Lake Johnston



Coppice growth from lignotubers



Description: Multi-trunked **mallee**, 3–5 m tall, lignotuber resprouter. **Bark** smooth throughout, decorticating in long ribbons, white to pale brown. **Branchlets** non-pruinose; pith glands present. **Cotyledons** bisected. **Juvenile leaves** opposite for a few pairs then alternate, petiolate, lanceolate, 30–50 mm long × 6–15 mm wide, green. **Adult leaves** petiolate, narrow-lanceolate to lanceolate, 50–115 mm long × 5–15 mm wide, glossy, green. **Inflorescences** axillary; umbels 7-flowered, pendulous; peduncles terete, 15–40 mm long; pedicels 6–18 mm long. **Buds** cylindrical but constricted in middle, 8–11 mm long × 5–6 mm wide; hypanthia with constriction; opercula broadly conical. **Flowers** creamy white; mostly in summer and autumn. **Fruits** on long pedicels, pendulous, 9–16 mm long, urceolate, smooth, 8–10 mm long × 6–11 mm wide; disc descending; valves 4 or 5, below rim level. **Seeds** brown.