

## NZ Myrtaceae Key - Online edition

# *Eucalyptus cinerea* F.Muell. ex Benth.

### Common Names

Argyle apple, mealy stringybark, silver-leaf stringybark, silver dollar gum, silver dollar tree

### Origin

Australia: sporadically distributed on the Central and Southern Tablelands and adjacent Western Slopes of New South Wales, south to north-eastern Victoria.

### Cultivation

In New Zealand widely cultivated as a landscape tree of parks and gardens; occasionally naturalised from nearby planted specimens.

### Distribution

Scattered records from the North Island and northern South Island of New Zealand.

### Distinguishing Features

- Medium-sized tree with bark rough to small branches, thick, fibrous, longitudinally furrowed.
- Crown of mature tree composed of grey-green to waxy grey-white juvenile and intermediate leaves.
- Juvenile leaves waxy grey-white, stalkless, opposite for many pairs, round to broadly ovate, to 80 mm long and 50 mm wide, base stem-clasping and overlapping the leaf on the opposite side of the stem, lobed or rounded.
- Intermediate leaves grey-green to waxy grey-white, opposite, stalked, ovate to lanceolate, to 90 mm long and 45 mm wide.
- Adult leaves rarely formed, dull, grey-green to waxy grey-white, alternate, stalked, blade lanceolate to slightly sickle-shaped, to 140 mm long and 50 mm wide, base rounded or tapering to stalk.
- Flower buds in stalked clusters of three, in leaf axils; mature buds stalkless or with central bud short-stalked, diamond-shaped, to 8 mm long and 5 mm wide, waxy grey-white, bud cap conical, flowers white.
- Capsules woody, stalkless or shortly stalked, funnel-shaped to bell-shaped, disc a raised ring, valves 3 to 5, to rim level or projecting slightly past the rim.

### Habit

Small to medium-sized tree to 15 m tall.

### Bark and Stem/Trunk

Bark rough to small branches, thick, fibrous, longitudinally furrowed, grey over red-brown; ribbons absent. Hairs and adventitious roots absent. Young stems rounded, waxy grey-white.

### Leaves

Adult leaves (rarely formed) alternate; blade lanceolate to slightly sickle-shaped, 90–140 mm long, 15–50 mm wide, base rounded or tapering to stalk, dull, grey-green to waxy grey-white, same colour above and below; side-veins at an angle greater than 45° to midrib, vein reticulation dense, intramarginal vein remote from margin, with few to numerous oil glands; leaf stalk to 11 mm long.

Juvenile leaves stalkless, opposite for many pairs, round to broadly ovate, to 80 mm long, to 50 mm wide, base stem-clasping and overlapping the leaf on the opposite side of the stem, lobed or rounded; leaf tip rounded to pointed or notched, waxy grey-white.

Intermediate leaves opposite with stalks 4–15 mm, ovate to lanceolate, 48–90 mm long, 20–45 mm wide, grey-green to waxy grey-white.

### Flowers

Flowers in clusters of three, in leaf axils, stalk of cluster 5–8 mm long. Mature buds are free, stalkless or with central bud short-stalked (stalk to 3 mm long), diamond-shaped, 8 mm long, 3–5 mm wide, waxy grey-white, bud cap conical, flowers (stamens) white; in mature open flowers, petals and sepals absent. Main flowering period: late autumn to spring.

### Fruit

Capsules woody, stalkless or shortly stalked (stalk to 2 mm long), funnel-shaped to bell-shaped, 4–8 mm long, 5–9 mm wide, disc a raised ring, valves 3 to 5, to rim level or projecting slightly past the rim.

### Similar Species

- *Eucalyptus cordata* and *E. cinerea* foliage and buds look similar, both with mainly grey-green to waxy grey-white foliage and buds in clusters of three in leaf axils. Leaf margins of *E. cinerea* are smooth, whereas those of *E. cordata* are usually scalloped. Woody capsules of *E. cordata* are cup-shaped, cylindrical or hemispherical, compared with funnel-shaped to bell-shaped capsules of *E. cinerea*. Branchlets of *E. cordata* may be square and warty, but young stems of *E. cinerea* are round. The most distinctive difference is that *E. cordata* bark is smooth, sometimes with curling or flaking patches, but *E. cinerea* bark is rough with longitudinal furrows.
- *Eucalyptus nicholii* and *E. cinerea* both have thick, rough, longitudinally furrowed bark to the small branches, dull, grey-green to waxy grey-white foliage, and capsules that are funnel-shaped to bell-shaped. However, buds and capsules of *E. cinerea* are in

clusters of 3, and those of *E. nicholii* are in clusters of 7. Capsules of *E. nicholii* are small (to 5 mm long, to 5 mm wide) and those of *E. cinerea* are larger (to 8 mm long, to 9 mm wide).

## Notes

In Australia, three subspecies are described: *Eucalyptus cinerea* subsp. *cinerea*, *E. cinerea* subsp. *triplex* and *E. cinerea* subsp. *victoriensis*. They vary slightly in distribution and crown foliage composition, as well as capsule size range. In *E. cinerea* subsp. *cinerea* the crown of the mature tree is composed of juvenile and intermediate leaves. In *E. cinerea* subsp. *triplex*, the crown of the mature tree is composed of mixed juvenile, intermediate and adult leaves or predominantly of intermediate and adult leaves. In *E. cinerea* subsp. *victoriensis* the crown of the mature tree is composed of juvenile and intermediate leaves, with the rarely formed adult leaves slightly narrower and the capsules slightly smaller than in the other subspecies. In New Zealand herbaria, there are no specimens determined to subspecies.

*Eucalyptus* is a genus of nearly 800 species, most of which are endemic to Australia, with a few species extending to parts of Malesia and as far north as the Philippines.

## External Links

- [EUCLID](#)
- [Flora of New Zealand Online](#)
- [GBIF](#)
- [iNaturalist NZ](#)
- [NZPCN](#)
- [PlantNET: New South Wales Flora Online](#)
- [Plants of South Eastern New South Wales](#)

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