

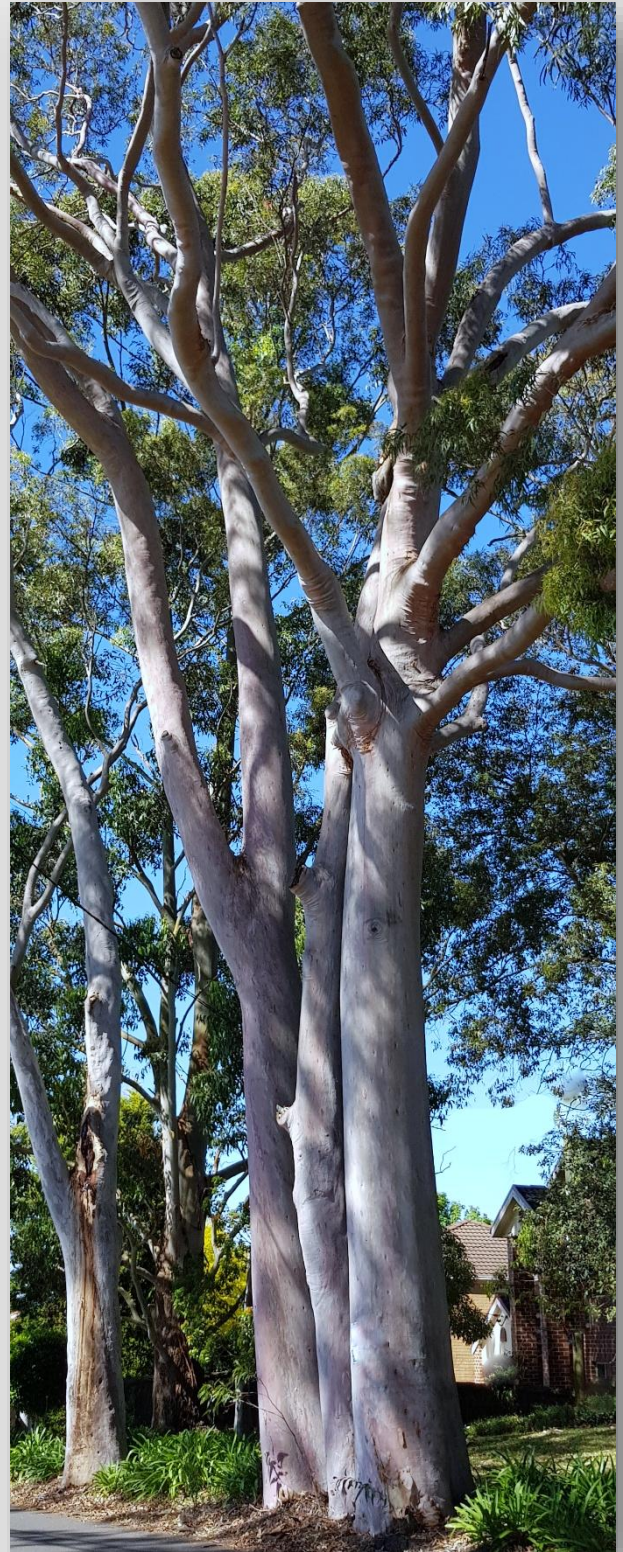
# Lemon- scented Gum

## *Corymbia citriodora*

If you are fortunate to live close to a cluster of Lemon-scented Gums, or even just near one tree, a walk after dew or rain will reward you with the delightful fragrance of lemon produced by the leaves of these tall, elegant trees. They are striking in appearance with smooth white bark.



Natural distribution of *Corymbia citriodora* in Queensland. Modified from Atlas of Living Australia



*Corymbia citriodora* is found in sub-tropical forests of Queensland, but it has also become naturalised in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.



There were no flowers or capsules present in the specimen collected in 1846 by explorer Thomas Mitchell on his fourth expedition into what is now part of Queensland, however the lemon-scented leaves were so distinctive that they proved sufficient evidence for botanist William Hooker to name the tree *Eucalyptus citriodora*.

*Corymbia* or *Eucalyptus*? In 1995, the ~ 900 tree species that were generally known as **eucalypts**, were reclassified by botanists Ken Hill and Lawrie Johnson into three genera, *Eucalyptus*, *Angophora* and *Corymbia*. Many *Corymbia* species are commonly referred to as **bloodwoods**, or **ghost gums**. *Corymbia* species look like *Eucalyptus* species but there are differences, in particular the flowers

of *Corymbia* that are arranged in clusters (corymbs) at the ends of branches, the capsules that are woody and urn-shaped, and the lateral veins in the leaves that are closely spaced, almost parallel. In January 2020, *Corymbia* became the accepted name for about 115 species previously known as *Eucalyptus* in the Australian Plant Census, an online interface to currently accepted scientific names of vascular plants in Australia.





Lemon-scented Gums are tall and straight, providing timber ideal for wharves and bridges, railway sleepers and mining timbers. It is also used for house framing and flooring and for fine furniture. However, they are probably best known for the essential oil refined from the leaves, used in perfumery and in insect repellents. This is principally **citronellal**,  $C_{10}H_{18}O$ , a monoterpene aldehyde which is the main component in a mix of compounds that give **citronella oil** its very distinctive lemon scent.

Atlas of Living Australia:

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Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corymbia\\_citriodora](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corymbia_citriodora)

Wikipedia: [Australian Plant Census - Wikipedia](#)

Wikipedia: [Citronellal - Wikipedia](#)



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