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Department of Biodiversity,
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SOUTHERN FOREST REGION



JARRAH FUN FACTS

The species was first collected in 1791 at King George Sound by Archibald Menzies, botanist to George Vancouver's naval expedition of discovery.

Jarrah's scientific name is *Eucalyptus marginata*. *Eucalyptus* derived from the Greek meaning well covered, referring to the fused sepals which make the flower cap. *marginata*, referring to the distinct marginal vein on the leaf.

Jarrah is restricted to the south western corner of Western Australia, from about Bindoon, south east to the Stirling Ranges and Beaufort Inlet. It occurs more or less continuously west of a line from near New Norcia, Northam, York, Dryandra, Williams and Cranbrook.

The maximum recorded height for a jarrah is 50 m. The maximum diameter at breast height is 3.2 m.

Some exceptionally large trees may be up to 500 years old.

The area of jarrah occurrence (including forest now cleared for agriculture) is 39,000 km². At present, some 15,000 km² is reserved in the CALM estate.

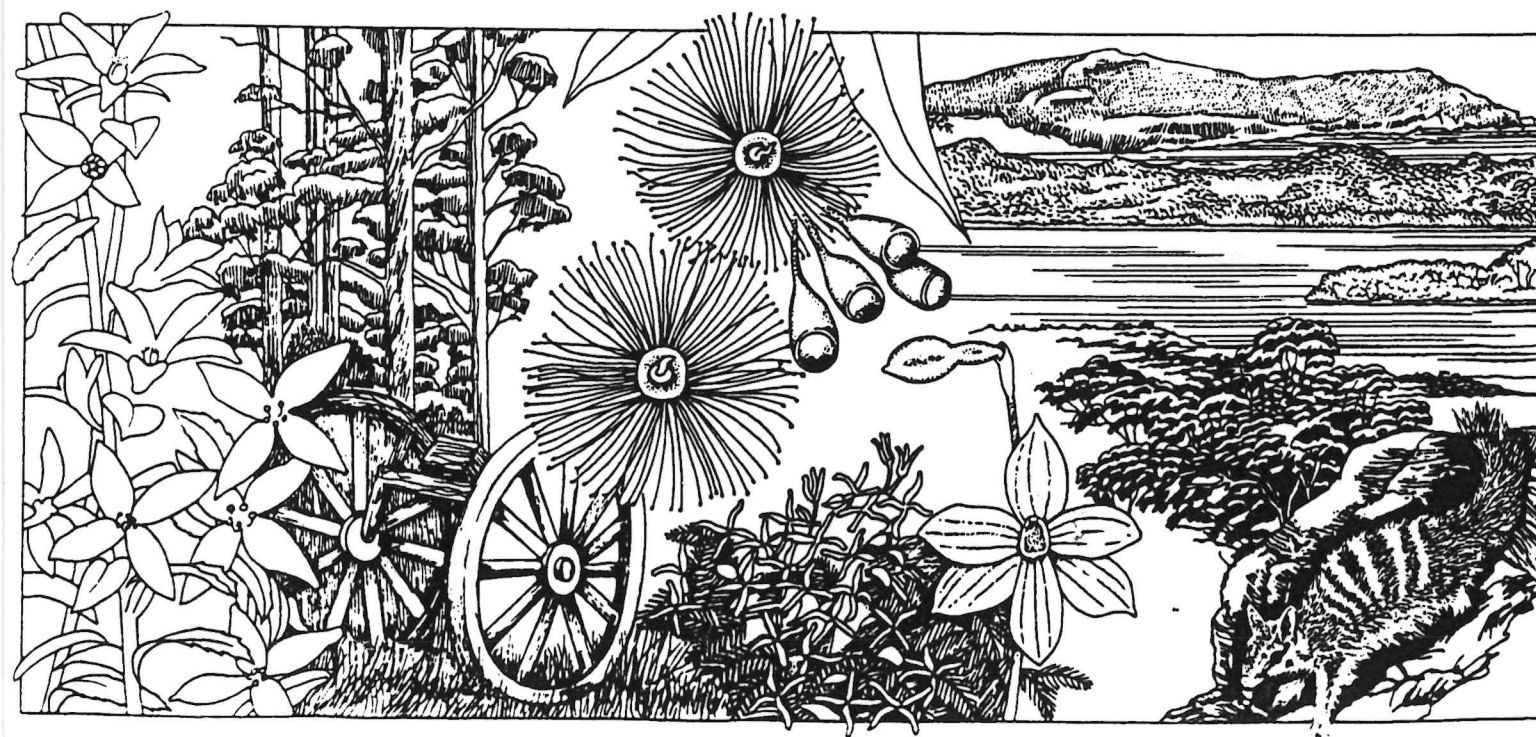
388 000 ha or 25 % of State owned jarrah forest is in national parks or conservation reserves (1992 Forest Management Strategy proposals).

Jarrah requires about 650 mm of annual rainfall or more to grow.

The majority of jarrah forest grows in laterite soil derived from the weathering of granitic bedrock.

It has one of the deepest rooting capabilities of any eucalypt, with roots penetrating up to about 40 m through caprock and clay down close to caprock.

It has rough, stringy reddish grey to brown bark.



Jarrah has a lignotuber - a woody underground swelling at the base of the stem - a means of storing carbohydrates. It makes the young plant in particular, practically indestructible to fire, drought or grazing by insects or mammals.

Jarrah leaves rarely live longer than two years.

In average quality jarrah forest, ground litter accumulates at about 1.5 tonnes / ha per annum.

In summer 1 ha of jarrah forest can transpire up to 100,000 l of water, a day.

Once past the sapling stage, an average jarrah tree will grow about 0.3 cm / year in diameter.

Mature jarrah is very fire tolerant and can survive intense bush fires - the bark acts as an insulator protecting the live growing cells underneath.

Flowering occurs in spring or early summer (September - December). These flowers develop into fruits during the next year and mature in September.

The maximum volume of millable timber from a single tree is 60 m³.

Some uses of jarrah timber include sleepers, SEC poles, bridge timber, flooring, panelling, joinery, furniture, craftwood, fencing, boatbuilding.

The timber is well known for its durability and high resistance to decay and insect attack.

A dendrochronological analysis (study of the age of trees) of over 100 of the largest trees in the southern forests found that the ages ranged from 130 to 250 years. Very few trees were older than 300 years and the age of the oldest tree sampled was 377 years.

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