PLANT FACT SHEET

Eucalyptus viminalis Labill.

GENUS *Eucalyptus* **FAMILY** Myrtaceae

COMMON NAMES Manna gum, Ribbon gum, White Gum

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Gum, Manna

A white sweet manna probably produced as the result of insect damage is fermented and drunk.

DESCRIPTION

A medium to tall tree. It can grow 10-70 m tall. It spreads 8-15 m wide. The bark is smooth and whitish. It has some rough bark at the base of the trunk. The upper limbs shed bark in long strips. The branches are long and slender. Young leaves are opposite with the base wrapped around the stem. They are bright green. The adult leaves are long, dark green and sword shaped. They are 10-15 cm long. The flowers are in groups of 3. They are small and cream or white. The capsule is 5-8 mm wide. It is almost round. It has pointed valves which stick up.

HABITAT

It grows in temperate regions. It can grow in the subtropics. It needs well drained soils but they can be wet. It can grow in full sun or light shade. It can stand heavy frosts. It grows in cooler places. It grows in areas with an annual rainfall between 635-889 mm. It grows below 1,300 m above sea level. It can grow in arid places. It suits hardiness zones 8-10. Tasmania Herbarium. Arboretum Tasmania.

PRODUCTION

Harvesting and Seed Production

The manna is probably the result of boring by the Great Black, or Manna cicada (Cicada moerens).

NOTES

There are at least 500 Eucalyptus species mostly originally in Australia. This one is a favourite food of koalas. The manna consists of an unfermentable sugar called eucalin, and a fermentable sugar reported to be dextro-glucose.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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