



MALLEE WALK

Self-guided Trail



This self-guided walk will introduce you to a number of mallees that grow in Central Australia. Mallee is the name given to multi-stemmed trees which belong to the *Eucalyptus* and *Corymbia* genera. There are around 900 different Eucalypts worldwide, and the majority of these only occur in Australia. Mallee was a very common vegetation type across drier parts of southern Australia at the time of European settlement, but extensive clearing soon followed to open up land for agriculture. Mallees provide an important source of firewood, timber, gum, honey and Eucalyptus oil, and mallee habitat is also critical for many native animal species. Unlike other parts of Australia, mallees and other gum trees are relatively rare in Central Australia, and wattles predominate in most habitats.

1. Victoria Spring Mallee *Eucalyptus trivalvis*



This mallee grows up to 6 m high and is most common around the Pilbara and Great Sandy Desert regions in Western Australia, but also grows in southern Northern Territory and northern South Australia. It usually grows on sandy plains but also occurs on rocky hillsides and sand dunes. The pinkish-grey bark provides an attractive contrast to the glaucous leaves.

2. Shiny-leaved Mallee *Eucalyptus lucens*

Conservation status: Rare



Endemic to the MacDonnell Ranges bioregion of the Northern Territory, this smooth-barked mallee grows on sandstone and quartzite ridges. Growing up to 5 m high, the distinguishing feature of this small tree is its bright green shiny leaves. It is now cultivated in some gardens around Alice Springs.

3. Round-leaved Mallee *Eucalyptus minniritchi*



This attractive small mallee can be found growing on the upper slopes of Mt Sonder and other parts of the West MacDonnell Ranges, as well as in range country in Western Australia and northern South Australia. Round-leaved Mallee is popular in cultivation because of its beautiful blue-grey foliage, creamy-yellow flowers, and dark red curling (minni ritchie) bark.

4. Sturt Creek Mallee *Eucalyptus odontocarpa*



Growing up to 4 m high, this smooth-barked mallee occurs in a variety of habitats from the Pilbara in Western Australia, across the arid regions of the Northern Territory to Mt Isa in Queensland.

5. Red Mallee *Eucalyptus socialis* subsp. *eucentrica*



One of the most common and widespread mallees in limestone soils in rangeland regions of Australia, Red Mallee grows up to 8 m high and produces masses of creamy yellow flowers which are a source of much of the honey produced in inland regions. Aboriginal people harvested water from the roots of this species in very dry times, and Pitjantjatjara people are reputed to eat the seeds.

6. Finke River Mallee *Eucalyptus sessilis*



Finke River Mallee is a small, straggly, smooth-bark mallee mainly growing in the ranges to the south and west of Alice Springs, and occurring in a small area of range country in Western Australia. It has large leathery leaves, large reddish-brown buds and creamy yellow flowers which produce large quantities of nectar.

7. Mann Range Mallee *Eucalyptus mannensis*



This rough-barked mallee occurs in scattered populations across sand plains and dune country around ranges in Central Australia, and can be seen in the wild at Rainbow Valley (a Reserve south of Alice Springs). Masses of small white flowers are produced after rainfall events, and this species grows up to 10 m high.

8. Blue Mallee *Eucalyptus gamophylla* Arrernte name: Uleperre



A distinctive blue-leaved mallee growing up to 8 m high, Blue Mallee has a widespread distribution across arid Australia and grows on rocky hills or red sand habitats mostly in association with spinifex (*Triodia* species). Creamy white flowers appear in summer, and the seeds are eaten by Aboriginal people in the region. Water can be obtained from the roots of this Mallee, and the wood is used by Aboriginal people for making implements.

9. Sharp-capped Mallee *Eucalyptus oxymitra*



Sharp-capped Mallee grows up to 6 m high, and occurs on sandplain and rocky hill habitat in arid parts of north-western South Australia, Northern Territory and adjacent parts of Western Australia. It has smooth, reddish-brown bark, leathery grey-green leaves, and large yellow flowers that are produced in summer months. Aboriginal people harvest an edible lerp scale from the leaves, and honey from the flowers.

10. Red-bud Mallee *Eucalyptus pachyphylla* Arrernte name: Ntyenye



An attractive, pink-barked mallee growing to 6 m high in spinifex sandplains and sand dunes from the Gibson Desert in Western Australia across to Urandangi in Queensland. The red pointed caps of the flower buds are very ornamental, and are followed by clusters of yellow flowers mainly in spring. Pintubi people eat the large seed, and edible lerp found on the leaves of this species is reported to be sweeter than that found on any other gum tree.

11. Mallee Red Gum *Eucalyptus gillenii*



The botanical name of this mallee refers to Mt Gillen, named in honour of Francis James Gillen, Telegraph Stationmaster in Alice Springs in 1892 and collaborator with anthropologist and natural historian Professor Baldwin Spencer. Common along the ridges of the MacDonnell Ranges and stony hills elsewhere in Central Australia, this mallee grows to 5 m high and produces white flowers in summertime.

12. Snappy Gum *Eucalyptus leucophloia*



Although often growing in tree form, this species sometimes occurs in a mallee form growing up to 7 m high. It grows on gravely soils or stony rises around Tennant Creek and eastwards toward the Mt Isa region of Queensland. Its distinctive smooth white bark makes it an attractive garden specimen. The inner bark is used by Aboriginal people in medicines to treat a range of ailments.

Two other Mallees to be found in Olive Pink Botanic Garden are members of the Bloodwood group: Bloodwood (*Corymbia opaca*; and, Mallee Bloodwood (*Corymbia eremaea*).

We hope you enjoyed this walk!

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