

Gidgee

3 Acacias have the common name Gidgee;

- *Acacia cambagei*,
- *A. Georginae* and
- *A. pruinocarpa*.

All three are endemic to Australia. The first two occur in eastern states while the last one is confined to Western Australia.

Allergies/Toxicity: Besides the standard health risks associated with any type of wood dust, no further health reactions have been associated with Gidgee.

Stinking Gidgee– *Acacia cambagei*

This is the gidgee which we would be most familiar with. In wood working circles it is called Purple Heart Gidgee.

	<p>It can reach up to 12 m in height and can form extensive open woodland communities.^[1] The leaves, bark, and litter of <i>A. cambagei</i> produce a characteristic odour, vaguely reminiscent of boiled cabbage, that accounts for the common name of "stinking gidgee".</p> <p>Confined to regions between 550 and 200 mm annual rainfall,^[2] <i>A. cambagei</i> is found primarily on flat and gently undulating terrain on heavy and relatively fertile clay and clay-loam soils in the eastern part of its range, and often forms mixed communities with brigalow which favours the same soil types. In drier regions, gidgee is found primarily on</p>
	<p>red earths and loams in wetter depression and low-relief areas. Gidgee communities are floristically similar to brigalow communities. Eucalyptus cambageana, E. populnea, Corymbia terminalis, Eremophila mitchellii and Geijera parviflora are typical woody species associated with gidgee communities.^[3]</p> <p>Species associated with gidgee have a limited capacity to resprout following fire damage.^{[3][4]} Fire in any gidgee woodland would be a rare event under natural circumstances, since pasture is at best sparse in these communities, consisting of Chloris, Paspalidium, Dicanthium, Sporobolus and Eragrostis species.^[5]</p>
	<p>The trunk rarely has a diameter greater than 30 centimetres (or 1 foot). Gidgee is often considered a weed because it tends to take over an area so that little else grows amongst it and it has very little commercial value except for fence posts. It is rare for Gidgee not to split and crack during drying and so large sections are not common. While it is very difficult to work, and tools require constant sharpening, Gidgee has rich lustrous colours and takes oil and finishes beautifully.</p>



Bootle lists the following information. Heartwood chocolate brown. Sapwood pale yellow. Texture very fine. Grain variable; some tress produce a wood with a very wavy figure commonly described as "ringed gidgee", which is much sought after for walking sticks, knife handles, and fancy turnery. Strong characteristic odour when freshly cut. Air dried density of 1250kg/m³. Slow in drying but little degrade if dried under cover. Heartwood is very durable.

Georgina Gidgee - *Acacia georginae*



A small hardwood widely distributed in the dry interior of Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Common names for it include **Georgina gidgee**, **Georgina gidyea** and **poison gidyea**. It grows to a height of 3-8m.^[2] Usually grows on plains and along watercourses in clay and loam, often dominating in low woodland and low open woodland. Primarily the seed pods can be extremely [poisonous](#), since they may contain what are called [organic fluoroacetates](#).

Its uses include timber and fuel. It has been introduced into the [United States](#).

Bootle lists its timber properties as similar or the same as *A. cambagei*. Heartwood is coffee brown and air dried density of 1330kg/m³.

Southern Gidgee - *Acacia pruinocarpa*



Southern gidgee is a large spreading tree with height up to 12 m. It has rough, dark brown bark and often has fissures that fold into the wood, giving it a gnarled appearance. Distribution includes the central and northern desert areas of Western Australia, in a 700 km strip eastwards from east of Carnarvon to the north-eastern Goldfields. and is prominent in summer rainfall areas in the Murchison, Goldfields and Gascoyne. It is often associated with mulga on loamy soils. Wood description: *Heartwood* is dark brown, and *sapwood* whitish. Wood density: Green *density* is about 1265 kg/m³, air-dry density about 1150 kg/m³, and basic density about 970 kg/m³. Highly durable

Drying and shrinkage: Tangential and radial shrinkage are about 2.9 and 2.3 per cent respectively.

Workability: Goldfields craftsmen rank southern gidgee as average for machinability and stability, and good for turning, boring, screw holding, sanding and finishing.

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