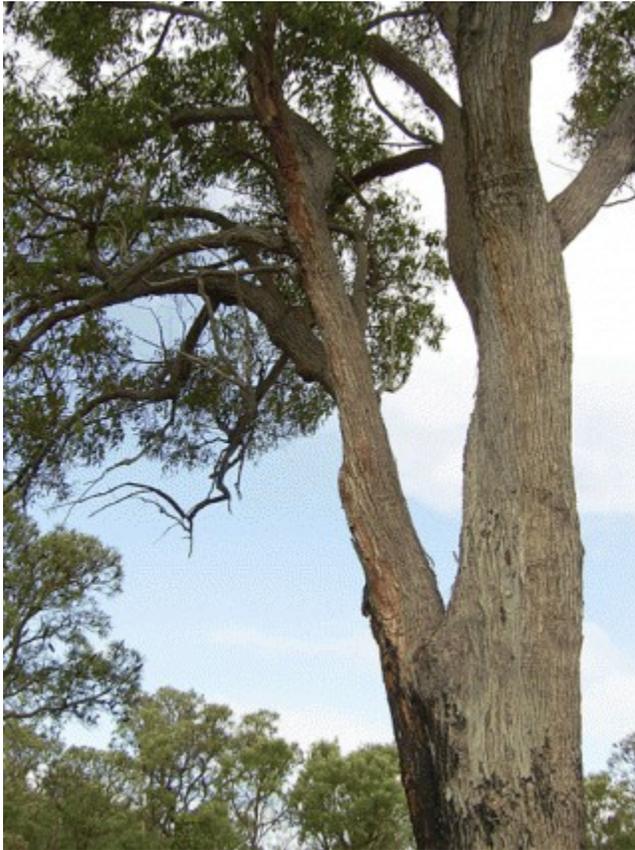


# Jarrah - *Eucalyptus marginata*



*Eucalyptus marginata*, commonly known as jarrah. A premium quality Australian hardwood, Jarrah ranges in colour from rich reddish-browns to soft salmon pinks. This warm, beautiful and durable hardwood, with its magnificent colour and grain, has been specified in both commercial and residential projects worldwide.

Originally called Swan River Mahogany by early settlers as it had similarities to that of mahogany imported to Britain from the West Indies for furniture.

The name Jarrah derives from **djarraly** in Noongar language. The aboriginal nation whose area overlaps with the natural distribution of Jarrah.

*Eucalyptus marginata* was first formally [described](#) in 1802 by James Edward Smith, whose description was published in *Transactions of the Linnean Society of London*. The *marginata* is a Latin word meaning "furnished with a border".

## Distribution and habitat

*Jarrah* occurs in the south-west corner of Western Australia, generally where the rainfall exceeds 600mm. It is found inland as far as Mooliabeenee, Clackline and Narrogin and in the south as far east as the Stirling Range. Its northern limit is Mount Peron near Jurien Bay but there are also outliers at Kulin and Tutanning in the Pingelly Shire.

## Description

Jarrah often takes the form of a mallee in places like Mount Lesueur and in the Stirling Range but it is usually a tree and in southern forests sometimes reaches a height of 40 metres with a trunk up to 3 meters in diameter. It typically grows in soils derived from ironstone and is generally found within its range, wherever ironstone is present.

It is a stringybark, with greyish-brown, vertically grooved, fibrous bark which sheds in long flat strips. It has lignotubers and roots that extend down as far as 40m.

The leaves are arranged alternately along the branches, narrow lance-shaped, often curved, 8–

13cm long by 1.5–3cm broad, shiny dark green above and paler below. There is a distinct midvein, spreading lateral veins and a marginal vein separated from the margin.



The stalked flower buds are arranged in umbels of between 4 and 8, each bud with a narrow, conical cap 5–9 mm (0.2–0.4 in) long. The flowers 1–2 cm (0.4–0.8 in) in diameter, with many white stamens and bloom in spring and early summer.

The fruit are spherical to barrel-shaped, and 9–20mm long and broad.

Its hard, dense timber is insect resistant. Jarrah is very vulnerable to dieback caused by the *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. In large sections of the Darling Scarp there have been various measures to reduce the spread of dieback by washing down vehicles, and restricting access to areas of forest not yet infected.

Jarrah wood is very similar to that of Karri, *Eucalyptus diversicolor*. Both trees are found in the southwest of Australia, and the two woods are frequently confused. They can be distinguished by cutting an unweathered splinter and burning it: karri burns completely to a white ash, whereas jarrah forms charcoal.

## Uses

When fresh, jarrah is quite workable. It is mainly used for cabinet making and furniture although in the past it was used in general construction, railway sleepers and piles. In the 19th century, it was exported and used to pave roads with jarrah blocks covered with asphalt.

*Heartwood* of mature trees is dark-red, although regrowth is pinkish-red, while *sapwood* is pale yellow. The texture of the wood is relatively coarse but even, with the grain slightly interlocked and sometimes producing a *fiddleback* figure.



Jarrah (endgrain 10x)

Jarrah produces a dark, thick, tasty honey, but its wood is its main use. It is a heavy wood, long, straight trunks of richly coloured and beautifully grained termite-resistant timber make it

valuable for cabinet making, flooring, panelling and outdoor furniture. The finished timber has a deep rich reddish-brown colour and an attractive grain.

Jarrah is used in musical instrument making, for percussion instruments and guitar inlays.

Because of its remarkable resistance to rot, jarrah is used to make hot tubs.



Jarrah and Queensland Maple sideboard



Jarrah burl (turned)

**Average Dried Weight:** 835 kg/m<sup>3</sup>. Green density is about 1170 kg/m<sup>3</sup>

**Specific Gravity (Basic, 12% MC):** .66, .84

**Janka Hardness:** 8,270 N

**Shrinkage:** Radial: 6.3%, Tangential: 9.4%, Volumetric: 16.4%, T/R Ratio: 1.5

**Color/Appearance:** Heartwood color ranges from a light red or brown to a darker brick red; tends to darken with exposure to light. Thin sapwood is a pale yellow to pink.

**Grain/Texture:** Grain tends to be interlocked or wavy with a medium to coarse texture. Some boards can contain gum pockets or streaks as a naturally-occurring defect. Jarrah can also exhibit a curly figure.

**Endgrain:** Diffuse-porous; large pores arranged in diagonal rows, few; exclusively solitary; tyloses common; growth rings indistinct; narrow rays not visible without lens, spacing normal; parenchyma vasicentric.

**Rot Resistance:** Jarrah is rated as very durable regarding decay resistance, and it is also quite resistant to insect attack.

**Workability:** Jarrah tends to be difficult to machine on account of its high density and interlocked grain. Jarrah also has a moderate blunting effect on cutting edges. Jarrah turns, glues, and finishes well.

**Odor:** No characteristic odor.