

Eucalyptus gomphocephala

TUART

DC.

Flowering period: January–April.**Description:** Tall to spreading tree to 25 m in coastal areas with rough, greyish, fibrous bark. Adult leaves oval, sometimes curved, 9–15 cm long, light green with thinner textured leaves in the seedling stage than other coastal eucalypts. Flowers in distinct dense heads comprising up to seven flowers, followed by mushroom-shaped fruits that mature and release seeds within the year.**Pollination:** Open pollinated by a wide variety of insects.**Distribution:** In near-coastal shrublands in deep sand from Jurien Bay to Ludlow in the south, sometimes where limestone is at depth. Will often form limited woodland communities in deep protected swales along the coast.**Propagation:** Easily and effectively propagated from seeds sown into seedling trays and pricked out into tubes once seedlings reach the two to four leaf stage.**Uses in restoration:** Requires some protection from direct wind when used within a few hundred metres of the coast. May be used to intersperse in plantings in secondary dune areas. Good examples of natural tuart groves can be found in the Trigg bushland conservation area as a guide to the natural locations where the species grows.**Notes:** In urban bushland such as in Kings Park, tuarts are often heavily predated by borer insects. These insects cause branch and trunk senescence in young trees resulting in stunted and malformed trees or death. Control of borers is complex and difficult to achieve. In near-coastal areas borer impacts are markedly lower than in more inland sites.

Habit



Buds



Fruit and bud



Distribution

R. Bairrett