

# What is *Eucalyptus aggregata*?



*Eucalyptus aggregata*, or Black Gum, grows as a medium-sized tree reaching up to 18 metres tall. The Black Gum is named for its dark, almost black bark, while its upper branches are smooth and lighter grey in colour.

Black Gums are mostly found in NSW, however there are small populations in the ACT and Victoria. Most populations are small and sit outside protected areas, occurring instead on travelling stock reserves or private rural land.

Its species name - *aggregata* - is Latin for "clustered," referring to the way its fruit forms in tight groups along the branches.

The Black Gum is listed as **Vulnerable** both in the ACT and nationally, reflecting just how precarious its future remains.



Historical records of *E. aggregata*. Atlas of Living Australia

# Who is Landcare ACT?



Established in 2016, **Landcare ACT** represents five environmental organisations in the ACT and region:

- **Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation**
- **Ginninderra Catchment Group**
- **Molonglo Conservation Group**
- **Southern ACT Catchment Group**
- **ACT Rural Landholders Association of Farmers**

We champion our members, connect communities with volunteer opportunities, and drive collective action to protect and restore the ACT's unique landscapes.

Learn more: [www.landcareact.org.au](http://www.landcareact.org.au)

## Online Resources

- ACT Govt - Threatened species, Black Gum [www.act.gov.au/environment/animals-and-plants/act-threatened-species/black-gum-eucalyptus-aggregata](http://www.act.gov.au/environment/animals-and-plants/act-threatened-species/black-gum-eucalyptus-aggregata)
- NSW Govt - Black Gum profile [threatenedspecies.bionet.nsw.gov.au](http://threatenedspecies.bionet.nsw.gov.au)



Australian Government



ACT  
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DO YOU KNOW ABOUT

# BLACK GUM

*Eucalyptus aggregata*

IN THE ACT?



# Habitat for native wildlife

Black Gum is more than just a tree - it's a wildlife hotel and buffet! Its creamy-white flowers bloom from late spring to early autumn, providing nectar and pollen for native bees and butterflies.



Photo by [Emily Wade](#) on [Unsplash](#)

The tree's dense canopy offers shade and shelter for woodland birds, including species like treecreepers and scarlett robins. Mature trees provide roosting sites for arboreal mammals such as gliders and possums.



Photo by [David Clode](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Black Gum often grows in cold grassy woodlands near creeklines is where its presence helps maintain soil stability which prevents erosion.



## A rare find in the ACT

In the ACT, the only known population occurs in the Kowen District. In 2014 there were just 16 mature trees on less than one hectare of land, and three of these died during the 2019 drought. Surveys in 2022, following several years of La Niña rainfall, recorded a significant recruitment of more than 90 seedlings into the population. Because this population is isolated, it has poor genetic diversity, making it more vulnerable to disease and environmental change.



## Threats

The Black Gum faces several challenges:

- Habitat loss and fragmentation, which limits gene flow between populations
- Crossbreeding with other eucalypts, reducing population viability
- Poor regeneration and recruitment, often due to livestock grazing
- Climate change, as the species prefers cool, wet areas that are increasingly under threat as the planet warms

## Short-term management actions

With the population occurring on grazing land, limiting access to cattle and sheep will allow the young trees to regenerate and bolster the numbers.

## Long-term management actions

A recovery project with the ACT Government is underway to secure the Black Gum's future in the ACT. Project partner CSIRO collected seed from various populations across NSW, and the grown seedlings will be planted in suitable habitat around the existing population to bolster numbers and introduce new genetics. These actions will create a more genetically diverse population with a better chance of withstanding disease and a warming climate. Landcare ACT is proud to be working with the ACT Government to help deliver this project and promote awareness about this incredible and rare tree in our local region.

