



Koala-ty Tree Species

Take it or leaf it!

Koalas use different tree species for different purposes.

Some trees are preferred fodder material (food) while others are just perfect for a long nap.



Every tree helps! We hope this guide encourages you to plant koala-friendly trees to make sure that koalas will continue to have lots of food, shade and a safe place in the future.



Koala Photos by Charley Geddes

Fodder Species



R. Taylor

Narrow-leaved red ironbark
Eucalyptus crebra



John Robert McPherson

- Adaptable to a range of soil types including sandy and clay loam
- Very common species
- Grows up to 25 metres

Ironbarks and blue gums are koalas favourite food!



John Robert McPherson

Queensland blue gum
Eucalyptus tereticornis



Ethel Aardvark

- Prefers heavy soils
- Great source of pollen for bees
- Important habitat for a range of animals including possums, gliders and bats that all rely on tall trees with hollows

Koalas eat around 500grams of leaves each day and obtain most of their water requirements from the leaves

Fodder Species



Poplar box
Eucalyptus populnea



Photos by M. Fagg

- Food source for birds and insects
- Prefers loam and black soils
- Grows up to 20 metres

Koalas rely heavily on their sense of smell and hearing due to their poor eyesight



Queensland peppermint
Eucalyptus exserta



Martin Bennett

- Crushed leaves have a peppermint smell
- Occur in heathlands and shrublands, in well-drained areas
- Great source of pollen for bees
- Grows up to 25 metres, sometimes multi-stemmed

Koalas have buns of steel! Due to their very low fat diet, koalas have very little fat and are mainly muscle



Seasonal Fodder Species



R. Taylor

Poplar gum

Eucalyptus platyphylla



M. Fagg

- Frequently crooked and sparsely branched
- Prefers poorly drained, heavy soils
- Deciduous and drops limbs readily
- Grows between 6 - 20 metres
- Leaf shape varies from broadly lanceolate (above) to almost circular



M. Thomas

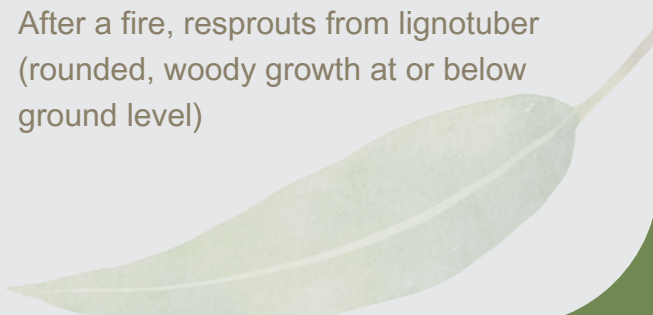
Brushbox

Lophostemon confertus



John Robert McPherson

- Leaves cluster together at end of branchlets
- Moderately drought resistant
- Suitable for a range of soil types including poorly drained soils
- After a fire, resprouts from lignotuber (rounded, woody growth at or below ground level)





Seasonal Fodder Species



R. Taylor

Swamp mahogany
Eucalyptus robusta



M. Fagg

- Sparse, irregular crown
- Prefers poorly drained soils and near water bodies
- Grows up to 30 metres

Koalas have special gut bacteria that helps them digest eucalyptus leaves which would otherwise be toxic

Mother koalas pass this to their young via their 'pap'



R. Taylor

Paper bark tea tree
Melaleuca quinquenervia



John Robert McPherson

- Medicinal tree for koalas suffering from digestive ailments
- Prefers to be near watercourses and swampy areas with a high water table
- Grows up to 25 metres
- Used by Traditional Owners for medicinal and housing purposes

Female koalas have a backward-facing pouch to protect their young from scratchy tree bark

Habitat Species



R. Taylor

Clarkson's bloodwood
Corymbia clarksoniana



M. Fagg

- Adaptable to a range of soil types, prefers well-drained areas
- Grows up to 25 metres

Koalas live up to 12 years, are weaned at 12 months and leave their mothers to establish their own home ranges after 2 years



John Robert McPherson

Pink bloodwood
Corymbia intermedia



Mark Marathon

- Adaptable to a range of soil types, typically well-drained
- Big clusters of flowers and then extremely heavy fruit weighs down branches
- Food source for other mammals, birds and butterflies
- Grows up to 30 metres

Each koala has unique nose markings and are the only non-primates with fingerprints



Habitat Species



R. Taylor

Lemon scented gum

Corymbia citriodora subsp. *citriodora*



Bailey plants

- Lemon scented foliage
- Food source for other mammals and birds
- Prefers dry, well draining areas
- Grows up to 35 metres

The main threats to koalas include vehicles travelling at night, dogs, disease/stress, bushfires and land clearing



R. Taylor

Moreton Bay ash

Corymbia tessellaris



Adam Smith

- Adaptable to a range of soils but prefers alluvial and sandy soils
- Bark was used by Aboriginal communities for medicinal purposes
- Food source for birds and butterflies
- Grows up to 30 metres

Who's been sleeping in my tree?

Look out for these signs if you suspect you have koalas on your property



Scratch marks on trees

Short scratches or claw marks indicate a koala climbing up a tree, and long scratches indicate them climbing down. Scratches can also be caused by other climbing animals such as possums or goannas.

Smell

Male koalas in particular can give off strong aromas due to a strong-smelling scent gland on their chest (sternum) which they rub on trees to mark their territory.

Sound

During the breeding season, males are mutually antagonistic and bellow out to one another.

Scats

Lots of small pellets can be found at the base of koala food trees. Usually green/brown in colour depending on how old the scat is. Fresh scats even smell of eucalyptus when broken. Other arboreal mammals like possums also produce pellet shaped scat but they are smaller and in a larger quantity.



Having intact vegetation corridors such as riparian zones (areas alongside rivers, streams, creeks and other waterways) or scattered trees in open areas can provide refuge for koalas, gliders, quolls and possums. Koalas use trees for shade, shelter and to avoid predators as they move across the landscape.

A healthy landscape is comprised of a diverse range of plant species.

Therefore we recommend planting a range of local native plants to give koalas a choice of what to eat when they come to visit.

These plants can be sourced from most local native plant nurseries including Mackay Natural Environment Centre and Sarina Landcare (SLCMA) Community Nursery

This project is funded by the Australian Government Saving Koalas Fund. Special thank you to Charley Geddes (charley.geddes@cqumail.com) for the koala photos.



Scan the QR code for more information on the Sarina Koala Habitat Restoration project

