

## Eucalyptus amplifolia as a Landscape Tree

While *E. amplifolia* may be grown for commercial products such as mulchwood, pulpwood, oriented strand board, and energywood, it can also be used as a fast growing landscape tree (Figures 1-4 on back). With its “sycamore-like” bark, relatively straight stem, self-pruning tendency, and evergreen but sparse foliage, *E. amplifolia* typically provides high, open shade when grown in urban environments. However, variation within the species often gives rise to individual trees that are slightly crooked, multistemmed, heavily branched, or densely foliated.

Recommended planting practices for *E. amplifolia* in landscapes include:

- Keep the tree roots moist; plant the tree as soon as possible
- Select a sunny location at least 25’ away from structures
- Avoid locations close to water lines, power lines, etc.
- Pick planting spots with **fertile** soils having **pH above 5.6**, or amend planting spots with lime, a balanced slow release fertilizer, or compost
- Prepare grass and weed free planting spots by tilling or use of herbicide for 3’ around the tree
- Make a planting hole at least 2’ deep and loosen and mix the soil thoroughly
- Partially fill the planting hole with water
- Place the tree upright in the planting hole and cover the root ball with 0.5-1” of soil
- Pack the soil firmly around the tree
- Water thoroughly
- Add a thin layer of mulch or compost around the tree; avoid contact with the stem

Post-planting maintenance is essential to tree survival and growth and includes:

- Daily or thorough weekly watering as needed
- Control of grass and weeds around the tree; most common herbicides, e.g., roundup, will damage *E. amplifolia*
- If using fertilizer, stop in October

These practices could result in tree growth of more than 10’ per year. During the first year, growth is likely to be less, and young trees may be susceptible to severe freezes. If the stem is killed by freeze, the tree will sprout vigorously from the stump the next spring. Once well established, *E. amplifolia* trees will reach heights of 80’ or more.

Enjoy the shade, beauty, and variety *E. amplifolia* adds to the built environment. Should the tree become too large for its surroundings, just cut it down, use the wood for firewood or mulch, and watch it grow back.

## Eucalyptus amplifolia Landscape Trees



Figure 1. 2- (left), 4- (center left), 6- (center right), and 7-year-old (right) trees in Gainesville, FL



Figure 2. 7-year-old tree in Gainesville, FL: next to 40-year-old slash pine (left), whole tree (middle), and crown (right)



Figure 3. 12-year-old tree in Gainesville, FL: lower stem (left), upper stem (middle), and stem (right)



Figure 4. 5- (left), 5- (center), and 8-year-old (right) trees in Valdosta, GA