

# *Eucalyptus torquata*

## Coral Gum



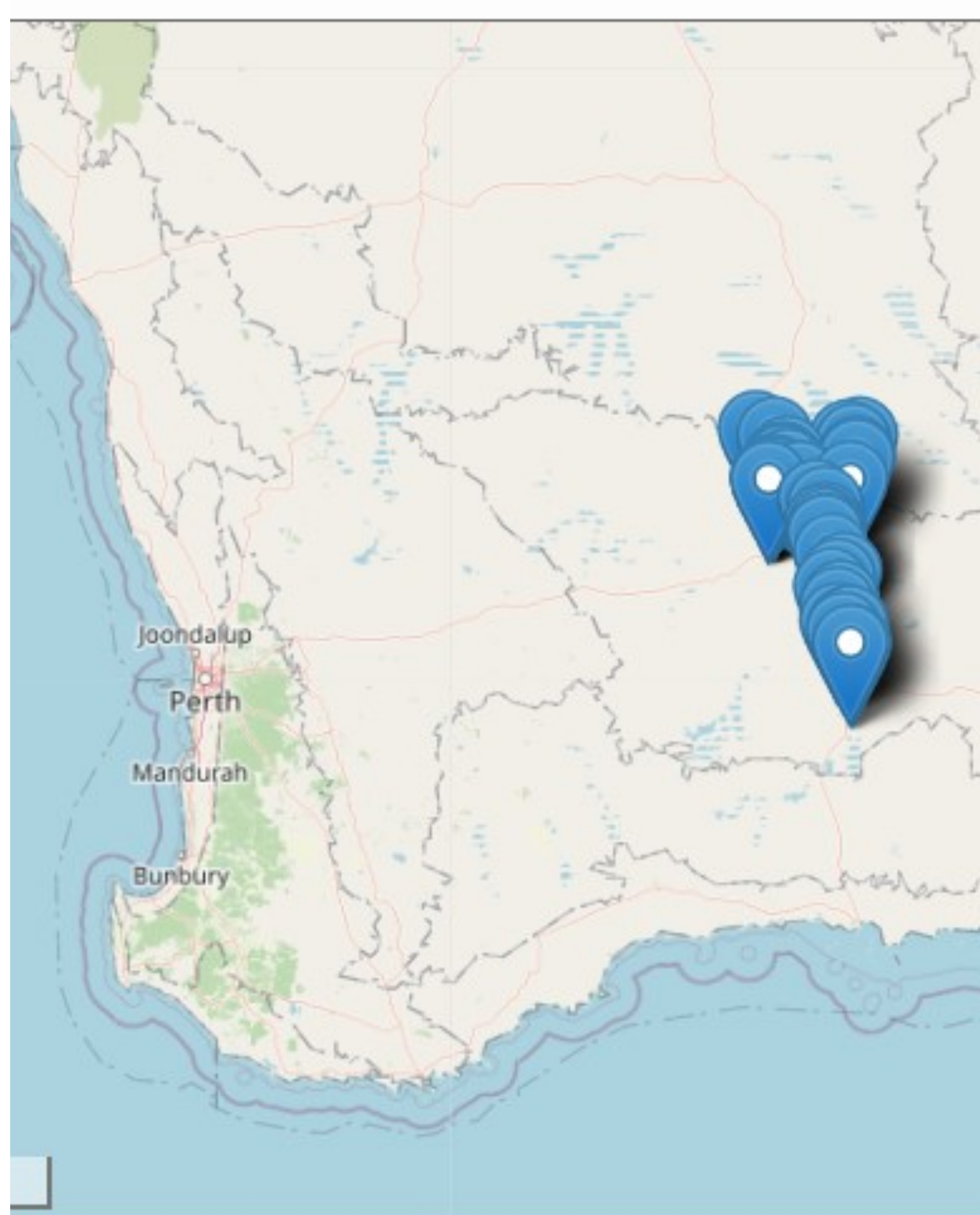
**Endemic to the Kalgoorlie region, the Coral Gum is a small tree which produces prolific coral blooms and is often used in wheatbelt towns as a pretty street tree**

**Description:** A tree, small and stout in form, with beautiful flowers. It reaches between 4 to 11 metres (13 to 36 ft) in height in its native habitat which has a spreading habit. It produces clusters of orange barrel-shaped buds with horned caps, which are followed by prolific red or pink flowers between August and December.

The Latin word *torquatus* means 'adorned with a neck-chain or collar' and refers to the decorative ridge around the base of the strangely pointed operculum or bud cap.



**Distribution:** *E. torquata* is naturally found on hillsides around Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie, and south to about Widgiemooltha in the Goldfields region of Western Australia where it grows in stony loam or clay and red sandy soils.



### Environmental, social & economic benefits:

- Coral Gum is useful in dryland revegetation projects as it establishes quickly and provides multi ecosystem services including shade, habitat, and aesthetics.
- Its prolific coral blooms are beneficial insect attractors.
- As a species native to relatively dry areas, *E. torquata* is best suited to cultivation in climates which have a dry summer. It has been grown in humid districts but cannot be regarded as reliable in those areas. In suitable areas, Coral Gum is an outstanding ornamental plant and can be grown in a large container. It is also often used as a street tree in inland areas. The plant needs well drained soils and is resistant to at least moderate frost. It also responds to pruning if required.
- *E. torquata* is one parent of the well known cultivar "Torwood" (the other parent being *E. woodwardii*). However, the hybrid is not stable and considerable variation in habit and flowering can be expected.
- Propagation of *E. torquata* is from seed which germinates readily.



Spectacular flowers



Planted Coral Gum



Flower caps ready to burst