



AVONGRO

Wheatbelt Tree Cropping

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Large Scale Tree Crops Could Become A Reality in Low Rainfall Areas

The Search Project

Large scale tree crops have the potential to become commercially viable in low rainfall areas according to recent research by CALM and local farmers.

20 native Western Australian woody plant species have shown good potential to provide feedstock for processed wood products and renewable energy industries in large scale tree crops in low rainfall areas. The findings are the result of the SEARCH research project conducted by CALM and local farmers.

The SEARCH project focused on native species with (1) scope to be profitable for farmers to grow, (2) suitability for products with large and stable global markets, and (3) amenability to short harvest cycles (3-10 years). The products chosen for this research were bioenergy for the domestic market and wood panels and paper for export.



Eucalyptus loxophleba subsp. *lissophloia* a potential feedstock for processed **wood products**

This table gives each species a performance rating (1 is good, 5 is poor) for tests conducted on sample paper and panel board. Both products have well-established testing procedures and performance standards.

Species	Paper	Panel Board		Average Ranking
		Fibre Board	Particle Board	
<i>Taxandria juniperina</i>	1	1	2	1.3
<i>Anthocercis littorea</i>	3	1	2	2.0
<i>Acacia saligna</i>	4	2	1	2.3
<i>Callitris glaucophylla</i>	5	1	2	2.7
<i>Codonocarpus cotinifolius</i>	4	2	1	2.3
<i>Eucalyptus rudis</i> subsp. <i>rudis</i>	4	1	2	2.3
<i>Gyrostemon ramulosus</i>	5	1	2	2.7
<i>Viminaria juncea</i>	4	2	1	2.3
<i>Senna pleurocarpa</i>	3	3	1	2.3
<i>Grevillea leucopteris</i>	2	2	2	2.0
<i>Alyogyne huegelii</i> var. <i>huegelii</i>	2	3	2	2.3
<i>Hakea oleifolia</i>	5	2	2	3.0
<i>Acacia lasiocalyx</i>	3	2	3	2.7
<i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> subsp. <i>lissophloia</i>	3	2	3	2.7
<i>Bursaria occidentalis</i>	5	2	3	3.3
<i>Casuarina obesa</i>	5	3	2	3.3
<i>Jacksonia sternbergiana</i>	3	2	4	3.0
<i>Melaleuca preissiana</i>	5	3	2	3.3
<i>Eucalyptus occidentalis</i>	4		2	3.0

cont.....

The agronomic potential of these species and their suitability for integration into farming systems is now being investigated through the national Florasearch project.

The SEARCH Project was conducted by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) between 2000 and 2004 with funding from the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT).



Want To Find Out More?

For further information or to obtain the full Search Project Report on CD (NHT Project Number 973849) telephone Kylie Connell in the Natural Resources Branch of CALM on 9334 0209 or email kyliec@calm.wa.gov.au.