

Durable Eucalypts Seminar

A Farm Forester's Experience

Denis Hocking

Lower Rangitikei Sand Country



Class 1 Durability Eucalypts Planted

In order of durability according to Thorton et al. or K.R.Bootle

Species	Durability Rating	Age of my Oldest Trees
<i>E. polyanthemos</i>	1	21 years
<i>E. wandoo</i>	1	20 years (very poor)
<i>E. microcorys</i>	1	33 years
<i>E. paniculata</i>	1	15 years
<i>E. melliodora</i>	1	34 years
<i>E. cloeziana</i>	1	17 years
<i>E. umbra</i> *	1 (Sub-spp. of <i>E. acmenoides</i>)	20 years
<i>E. cladocalyx</i>	1	34 years
<i>E. sideroxylon</i>	1	33 years
<i>E. crebra</i> *	1	33 years
<i>E. tricarpa</i> *	1	1 year
<i>E. Longifolia</i>	1	21 years
<i>E. Tereticornis</i>	1	21 years
<i>C. gummifera</i> *	1	21 years
<i>E. propinqua</i> *	1	21 years
<i>E. argophloia</i> *	1	17 years
<i>E. bosistoana</i>	1 / 2	21 years

*Not in Thorton et al's graveyard tests

Class 2 Durability Eucalypts Planted

In Order of Durability according to Thorton et al. or K.R.Bootle

Species	Age of my oldest trees
• <i>E. gomphocephala</i>	29 years
• <i>E. leucoxylon</i>	50 years plus
• <i>E. camaldulensis</i>	29 years
• <i>E. cornuta</i>	21 years
• <i>E. patens</i>	21 years
• <i>C. maculata/citriodora</i>	30 years
• <i>E. guilfoylei</i>	30 years
• <i>E. pilularis</i>	29 years
• <i>E. marginata</i>	8 years (miserable)
• <i>E. quadrangulata</i> *	20 years
• *Not in Thorton et al's graveyard tests	

My Serious Options/Choices For in Ground Use.

1. *E. microcorys* - **For:** Extremely durable, excellent milling, high yield of heartwood, adequate growth on dunes, no bugs.
Against: Frost tender, slower growing than best stringybarks.
2. *E. cladocalyx* - **For:** Seriously durable, (I think), mills well, high yield of heartwood, tolerates poor soils and exposure, no bugs.
Against: Form suspect, (need better genetics), Can be frost tender, slower diameter growth than alternatives.
3. *E. pilularis* - **For:** Good durability, mills well, good heartwood yields, adequate growth on sand dunes, relatively bug free.
Against: Frost tender, slower growth and poorer form than otherwise similar stringybarks, drought sensitive.
4. Stringybarks for shorter term (10-20 year) fences.

E. microcorys (69 cm.) wins on diameter, *E. cladocalyx* (53 cm.) on height. Both 33 years old



Some better *E. cladocalyx* 33 years 54 cm dbh.



Some *E. microcorys* posts, sapwood removed.



E. microcorys showing heart and sapwood.



E. microcorys post after 14 years, not pretty but still very solid



E. Microcorys pole to replace failed CCA treated pine pole



E. Microcorys poles in farm shed



E. globoidea stakes used for electric fence. 31 stakes, 2 broken
after 9 years



Other species: *E. polyanthemos*, the most durable of the eucalypts but with dbhs of 15-20 cm @ 21 years ????????



Acacia acuminata, the most durable of timbers tested by Thornton et al. ???? Note also *E. umbra*



E. Bosistoana can be an elegant timber tree. 46 cm. dbh @ 21 years. Cf *E. longifolia* 50 cm. @21 years, on same **fertile** site

