

The Blue Mallee of West Wyalong



Four-tank Eucalyptus Oil Still, Steam from Boiler. Wyalong, N.S.W. (Wattle Brand Eucalyptus Oil Co.)

Our Blue Mallee History

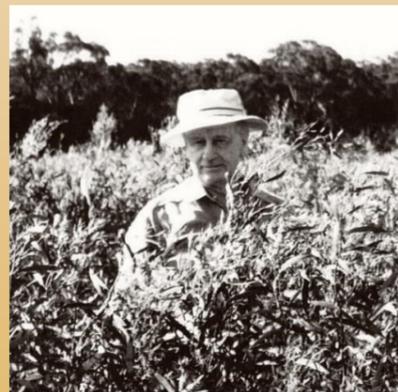
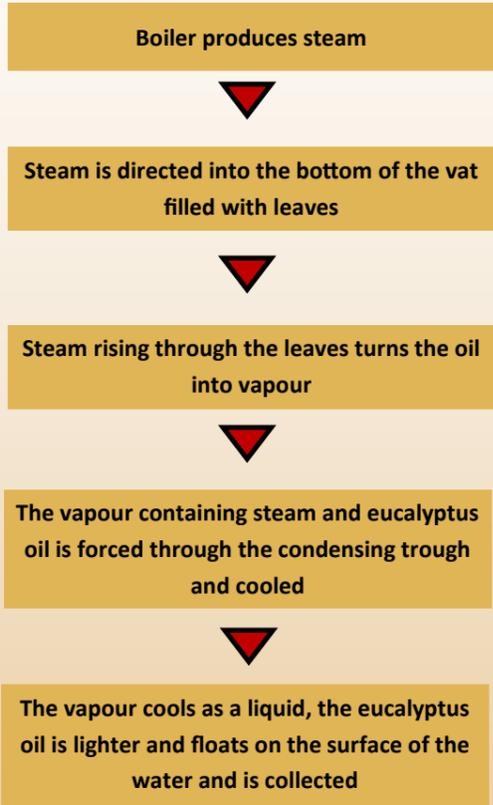
Eucalyptus polybractea or Blue Mallee occurs in 2 distinct areas. One is near Bendigo in Victoria. The other consists of extensive stands around the West Wyalong region.

Oil from the Blue Mallee has been produced in the West Wyalong district since the early 1900's. The First botanical specimen of Blue Mallee from West Wyalong was received and distilled in the Museum of Applied Arts in 1900. Commercial production in West Wyalong began in 1907 by the firm Gillard Gordon.

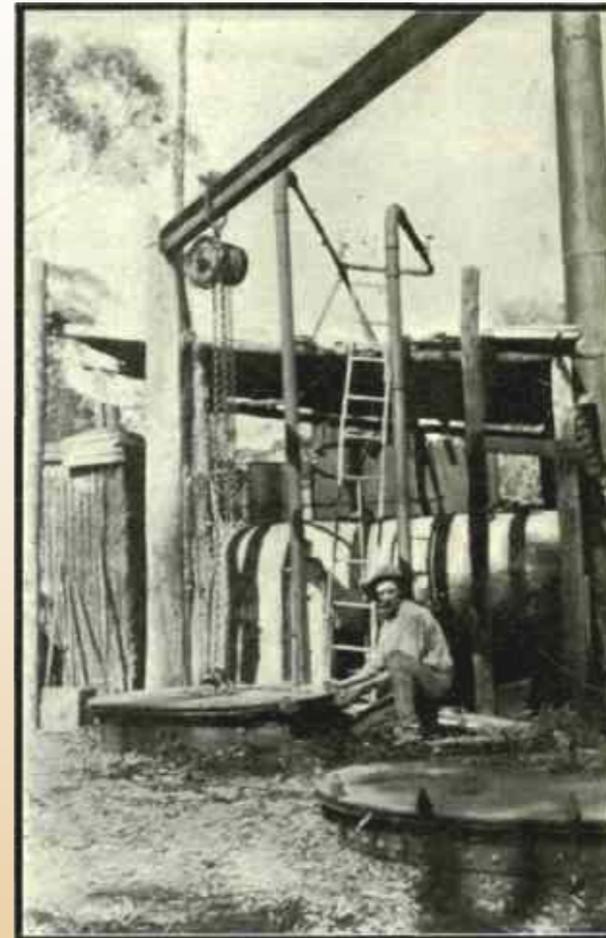
Eucalyptus oil can be produced from many eucalypts, however oil from the Blue Mallee has the richest commercial source of cineol in the world, with very high levels of up to 91%. This eucalypt is the most commonly planted tree in Australia as part of carbon offset programs. Primarily, because it is native to Australia, it can grow effectively in drought conditions and can store a great deal of carbon quickly.

Sadly, a lot of Mallee woodland countryside was cleared to make way for wheat, barley and sheep. Initially done with bullock teams, tractors were later used to tow large chains (tractor ripping) which rapidly cleared the land. As a result of this clearing process, soil erosion became an issue.

The Distilling Process



Bland Shire Council would like to thank GR Davis PTY LTD, for the donation of the Eucalyptus distillery to Cooina Reserve. The Davis family has farmed and cultivated Blue Mallee Eucalyptus Oil in West Wyalong since 1964.



Eucalyptus Oil Still, with Two Iron Digesters Sunk in the Ground. Wyalong, N.S.W. (Messrs. Gillard Gordon, Ltd.)



Uses of Eucalyptus Oil

Traditional Usage

Indigenous people made use of this oil for cuts by wrapping the leaves around the wound. The leaves were boiled or smoked on a fire and the oil vapours inhaled for treating colds and flu.

Early European Usage

Settlers found the root ball an excellent source of long burning firewood.

Present Day Usage

This oil is now an every-day household product for cleaning, stain removal, disinfectant and insect repellent. It is also widely used to treat colds and flu, muscle aches, to invigorate the senses and treat insect bites.

