



Koala Food Trees

The major food trees utilised by koalas in the North Coast region are listed below:

Primary browse trees

- Forest Red Gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*)
- Tallowwood (*Eucalyptus microcorys*)
- Swamp Mahogany (*Eucalyptus robusta*)

Secondary browse trees

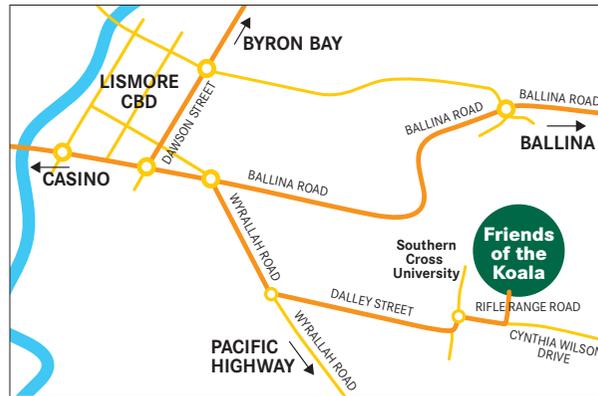
- Flooded Gum (*Eucalyptus grandis*)
- Grey Gum (*Eucalyptus propinqua*)
- Blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*)
- Sydney Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus saligna*)
- Scribbly Gum (*Eucalyptus signata*)
- Grey Ironbark (*Eucalyptus siderophloia*)
- Forest Oak (*Allocasuarina torulosa*)
- Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*)
- Paperbark (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*)

Can't visit but would like to help?

Adopt a koala, donate or report a sighting of a koala at www.friendsofthekoala.org

Find us

Adjoining the leafy campus of Southern Cross University in East Lismore. Entry is by donation.



Burribi Education and Administration Centre

23 Rifle Range Road
EAST LISMORE NSW 2480
Ph: 02 6621 4664

Email: info@friendsofthekoala.org

Koala Rescue Hotline
6622 1233 – 24 hours

www.friendsofthekoala.org



GRAPHITI DESIGN STUDIO / LISMORE CITY PRINTERY

Photo: Michael Wood



Restoring Koala Habitat



WHY PLANT TREES

Koala survival is dependent on the retention of habitat and connectivity of remnant vegetation. Many of the remaining stands of eucalypts along used koala routes have become so severely fragmented that koalas are exposed to stresses that impact on their survival.

Friends of the Koala (FOK) aims to assist landholders and land managers to undertake tree-planting activities to link existing patches of koala habitat to create greater connectivity and assist koala movement.

WHERE CAN I GET TREES?

FOK operate a native plant nursery in East Lismore that specialises in koala food trees. Trees are sold at a greatly reduced rate to landholders in the Northern Rivers region who want to expand existing habitat. A list of koala food trees available can be found on the back cover.

To purchase trees from the nursery, contact the FOK Nursery Manager, email: trees@friendsofthekoala.org



CAN I GROW MY OWN TREES?

To ensure planting success it is always preferable to plant trees grown from seed collected in your local area. These trees will have adapted to the specific conditions on your site (soil, aspect etc) and would be preferred by resident koalas. The nursery manager or landcare representatives will be able to assist you to identify the species that occur locally. Collect 'gum nuts' for easier identification.

COLLECTING SEED:

Seed is ripe when the capsules enclosing them are dark and woody. The capsules should be cut from the tree and placed in a paper bag, they will open and release their tiny seeds within a week.

SOWING SEED:

Sprinkle the fine seed evenly on punnets or trays filled with a mix of 2 parts coarse sand and 1-part peat. Cover seed with a fine layer of sand and mist or water gently. Place in a covered or protected area with some warmth and sheltered from direct sunlight. Germination can be expected in 2-3 weeks.

POTTING UP & HARDENING OFF:

When seedlings have 2 sets of true leaves (3-4cm) they can be gently potted up into tubes or pots filled with a potting mix that drains well. Add slow-release fertiliser.

Seedlings will grow best initially in semi-shade but will require 'hardening off' (i.e. gradually moving them into sun).



IS NATURAL REGENERATION AN OPTION?

Assisted regeneration through weed control is a far superior way to restore habitat of all flora species. Often excluding cattle will ensure natural regeneration occurs. Where habitat is fragmented undertake gap and edge planting to link remnants.

PLANTING SEQUENCE

SITE PREPARATION:

Chip away grass or spray circles with herbicide where trees are to be planted. Ripping planting lines for large-scale projects has also proven to be cost effective.

SPECIES SELECTION:

Koalas are fussy eaters so it is advisable to plant a mixture of food trees endemic to the area.

PLANTING:

Success is dependent on moisture availability in the soil. Plant when the soil is moist and when further rain is expected.

- Plant 4-5 metres apart or closer if thinning is planned.
- Water plants thoroughly and add fertiliser to the hole to stimulate early growth.
- Mulching with straw, tea-tree or seasoned wood chip is advisable to suppress weeds and help to retain moisture. Ideally place a thick layer of mulch about a metre radius around the tree.

FOLLOW UP:

- Better results will be obtained if plants are watered in the absence of rain.
- Follow up weed control will reduce competition from invasive grasses and weeds.
- Fencing off areas from stock for 2-3 years or using tree guards to protect from browsers, is advisable.

