

PKF/FPD/039

# EUCALYPTUS FOR PLANTING



A Eucalyptus tree

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Peshawar.  
1990.

## Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*)

Local Names : Lachi, Safeda, Gond.

Eucalyptus is a useful tree which is indigenous to Australia. In the past century it has been introduced in many countries of the world. In the Indo-Pakistan sub-continent, it was first introduced more than one hundred years ago. Since then it started gaining popularity due to a number of reasons.



A row of Eucalyptus tree planted on agricultural field

These include its fast rate of growth, which enables it to attain harvestable size within 8-12 years. It tolerates adverse edaphic and climatic conditions such as salinity, waterlogging and aridity. It is also resistant to the attack of insects and fungal diseases. There are more than 600 species of *Eucalyptus*, however, *E. camaldulensis* is most commonly planted in Pakistan and other countries. The leaves are not eaten by animals, therefore is safe from grazing damages.

*Eucalyptus* is suitable for planting on dry waste lands. The farmers can increase wood production and their income by planting it on marginal lands and around their agricultural fields. In this way they will contribute to the economic development of the country by providing useful raw-material for different industries.

## EUCALYPTUS TIMBER AND ITS USES

The *Eucalyptus* timber, is comparable to shisham and babul (in weight and strength). Two cubic feet of dry wood of *Eucalyptus* weighs approximately one maund (40 Kg). Heart wood of shisham is resistant to insect attack. Based upon its properties Eucalyptus can safely be used for the following purposes.

### 1. Use in Round Form

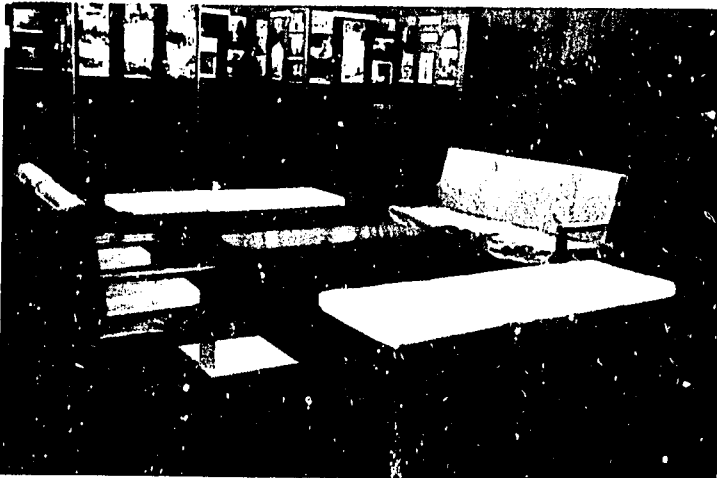
Young poles of Eucalyptus and thick branches are suitable for fence posts and for transmission poles in electric and telephone lines. It is also used for construction of rural houses.

### 2. Use after Sawing

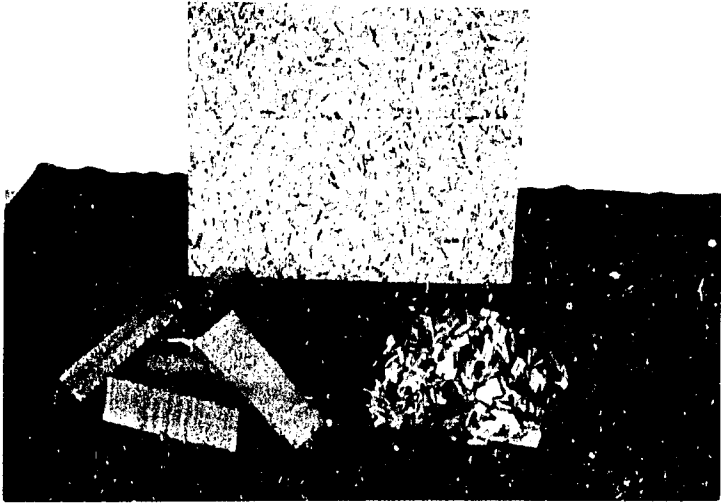
Eucalyptus trees must be felled in the months of December, January and February. Immediate sawing after felling is recommended. Sawn planks should be properly stacked under cover for drying in such a manner that air passes freely through them. In this way timber will season well and be ready for use by the month of June. Seasoned timber can be used for the manufacture of furniture, doors and windows.

#### a. Furniture

Good quality furniture can be manufactured from properly sawn and seasoned Eucalyptus which in its appearance and strength is as good as any furniture manufactured from other Pakistani timbers. It can be easily painted and polished to a high degree of fitness.



Furniture made of *Eucalyptus* timber.



Chipboard manufactured from Eucalyptus

In addition to above, *Eucalyptus* wood has many other uses. Leaves yield oil used in medicine. Bark is used in tanning of hide. In Australia and many South American countries, Eucalyptus timber is used for railway sleepers.

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b. *Constructional work*

*Eucalyptus* wood is used for construction. Beams and battons for roofs, door and window frames and shutters can be made from it. It is as strong as Shisham and Kikar woods.



A door frame and shutters made from *Eucalyptus* timber.

3. *Fuelwood*

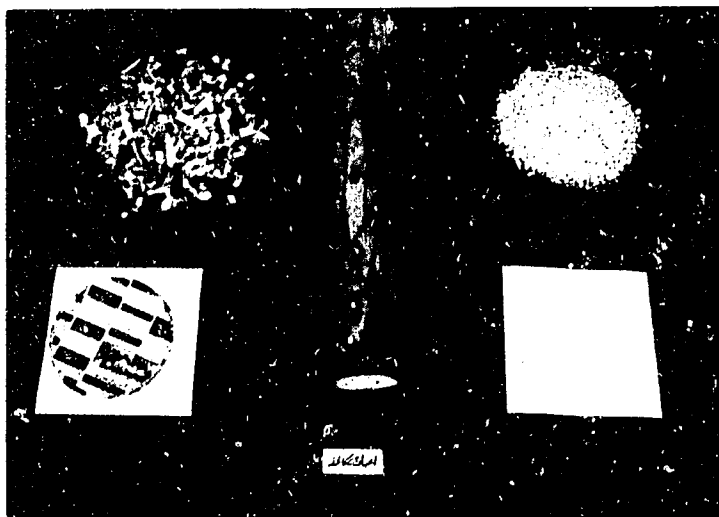
There is an acute shortage of fuelwood in Pakistan. *Eucalyptus* trees can greatly help to overcome this deficiency because of their fast rate of growth. *Eucalyptus* trees produce fuelwood of high heat value. Charcoal can also be produced from it.

4. *Eucalyptus* Wood as Industrial Raw-material

The following industries can be based on *Eucalyptus* wood :

a. *Pulp and Paper*

Wood of *Eucalyptus* is very suited for pulp and paper manufacture. The experiments carried out in the Pakistan Forest Institute indicate that *Eucalyptus* wood is suitable for manufacture of high quality newsprint, writing and wrapping paper. Its wood pulp can also be used for manufacture of artificial silk and other products.



Pulp and paper produced from *Eucalyptus* wood.

b. *Chipboard and Plywood*

*Eucalyptus* is suited for chipboard and plywood manufacture. Results of experiments carried out in the Institute showed that quality wise the chipboard and plywood manufactured from *Eucalyptus* wood are in no way inferior to those made from other wood species.