



# FORESTRY SOCIETY OF KENYA

*Promoting Professional Forestry in Kenya*

## EUCALYPTUS FACT SHEET

Eucalyptus is one of the widely planted tree species in Kenya that was introduced in the early 1900s to meet the fuel wood needs. Over the years the species turned out to be a pillar of commercial forestry within private lands. Despite the above, the species has attracted both positive and negative appraisals with negative environmental impacts on the hydrological patterns getting louder.

Deep rooted tree species including eucalyptus, mature trees and grasses such as mountain bamboo consume more water than shallow rooted plants. The Agriculture Act prohibits planting of all crops and trees which includes eucalyptus near water courses up to a width of 30 meters. Therefore, watershed management should be approached in a manner that discourages deforestation and de-vegetation. Based on the above the Society recommends planting of water friendly tree species that delivers a wider range of ecosystem goods and services.

The Society notes and support the recent directive by the C.S Ministry of Environment and Forestry Hon. Keriako Tobiko on uprooting of eucalyptus along riparian lands.

Below are facts on the Eucalyptus species.

- The main Eucalyptus grown in Kenya are; *E. grandis*, *E. saligna*, *E. camaldulensis* and *E. globulus*. *E. regnans*, *E. paniculata*, *E. maculate*, and *E. citriodora* commonly planted on small-scale basis
- There are eucalyptus hybrids and clones within Kenya, with *E. grandis* and *E. camaldulensis* hybrids being popular.
- Eucalyptus require 785 litres of water to produce 1kg biomass while coffee and maize requires 3,200 litres and 2,400 litres respectively to produce 1kg biomass
- Eucalyptus spp have a significant effect on the soil moisture and the varieties based on species, therefore proper site-matching before planting the trees is recommended.
- Eucalyptus spp should not be grown in wetlands and marshy areas, riparian lands, around water bodies, and areas receiving less than 400mm of rainfall annually.
- Most farmers are aware of the environmental concerns linked to Eucalyptus, but the economic benefits outweigh the environmental concerns.

### Useful Links:

<http://www.kenyaforestservice.org/documents/Eucalyptus%20guidelines%20%20Final%202.pdf>

<https://www.kefri.org/PDF/Publications/neweucalyptus.pdf>

<https://www.kilimotrust.org/documents/Eucalyptus%20Hybrid%20Clones%20In%20East%20Africa.pdf>

<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/d299/08f045be290774776b15f05845c050be9d26.pdf>

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