

The Dazzling 'Summer' Series of Flowering Gums

One of the most spectacular sights in the Australian garden is the *Corymbia* 'Summer' series. Known for their massive terminal clusters of nectar-rich flowers, these grafted hybrids have become staples for those seeking a vibrant, bird-attracting focal point that thrives beyond the limited range of the traditional Western Australian red flowering gum.

Hybrid Parentage & Origins

The *Corymbia* 'Summer' series consists of grafted hybrids specifically developed to be more resilient and compact than the standard *Corymbia ficifolia*. Grafting them onto *Corymbia ptychocarpa* rootstock allows them to thrive in a wider variety of Australian soil types and climates, including humid eastern regions like Sydney and Brisbane.

Corymbia 'Summer' series varieties



Summer Red: Features striking cerise-red to hot pink blossoms.
Flowers: December to March.
Size: 3-6m x 3-4m



Summer Beauty: Soft pink to apricot-coloured flowers.
Flowers: December to April.
Size: 4-6m x 3-4m



Summer Glory: Deep pink to crimson-red flowers.

Flowers: Throughout summer and into autumn.

Size: 4-6m x 3-4m



Summer Snow: Creamy white blossoms with prominent stamens.

Flowers: Summer and autumn

Size: 4-6m x 3-4m

Cultural Notes & Care

Corymbia 'Summer' series thrive in **well-drained soils** rich in organic matter. While adaptable to sandy or clay loams, they require better drainage than their *ptychocarpa* parent. Planting them in **full sun** ensures the most prolific flowering.

Because of their "Swamp Bloodwood" heritage, they require **more water during establishment** and during extended dry spells. Once established these trees are fairly drought tolerant.

Like many Australian native plants, they are susceptible to phosphorous toxicity so avoid high-phosphorus "general" fertilizers, instead use a **low-phosphorus native fertilizer** in spring

Always prune away any "suckers" growing from below the graft union to prevent the vigorous rootstock from overtaking the hybrid.

Their mid-sized, rounded canopies make them ideal **feature trees**. Their large, glossy leaves and bronze-tinted new growth provide year-round interest even when not in bloom. Avoid planting them close to high traffic areas as they produce large, woody "honky nuts" after flowering; while decorative for floral arrangements can cause tripping hazards.

Corymbia 'Summer' series attract birds and wildlife such as:

- **The Brush-Tongue Specialists:** Birds like [Rainbow Lorikeets](#) and [Wattlebirds](#) have tongues with a **brush-like tip** specially adapted to lap up the high-sugar nectar from deep within the *Corymbia* flower clusters.
- **A "Party Tree" Atmosphere:** During peak summer flowering, a single tree can become a hub of activity. It's common to see [Lorikeets](#), [Honeyeaters](#), and [Bees](#) all competing for the same blossoms, often resulting in loud and entertaining "squabbles" over the best branches.
- **Natural Camouflage:** Despite their bright colours, Rainbow Lorikeets can be surprisingly hard to spot when feeding in a 'Summer Red' or 'Summer Glory' tree, as their plumage blends with the vibrant red-pink blossoms and shadows of the foliage.
- **Not Just for Nectar:** While nectar is the main draw, larger birds like **Cockatoos and Galahs** often visit the trees later in the season to [snack on the gumnuts](#) for their internal seeds.
- **Small But Bold:** The [Scarlet Honeyeater](#), one of Australia's smallest birds, is a frequent visitor. Despite its tiny size, it is a key pollinator for these trees as it moves from flower to flower

"Research compiled using horticultural guides from Gardening with Angus, the Australian Native Plants Society, and ChatGPT (OpenAI, January 2026)."