



What country are eucalyptus trees
in California originally from?



WHERE DID EUCALYPTUS TREES
IN CALIFORNIA COME FROM?

☐ A Chile

☐ B France

☐ C China

☐ D Australia



Answer:
Australia

In the 1850s, eucalyptus trees were introduced to California during the California Gold Rush. California and Australia have areas with similar climates and eucalyptus trees proved to be very adaptable even in poor soils.

A typical early use of eucalyptus was to create wind breaks and prevent soil erosion around fields and farms. Throughout the Napa Valley you can still see many rows of these large trees along the edges of vineyards and even in the middle of roads.

At the turn of the 20th century, the US Forest Service anticipated a hardwood shortage due to the exploitation of forests in the east. Thousands of acres of eucalyptus were planted with the hope of providing a renewable source of timber for construction, furniture making and railway sleepers. It was soon found out that eucalyptus was particularly unsuitable, as the ties made from eucalyptus had a tendency to twist while drying, and the dried ties were so tough that it was nearly impossible to hammer rail spikes into them.



Showing off the size of a 25-year-old eucalyptus tree in Rosemead, CA, 1900.

Photo USC Libraries
California Historical Society Collection

Today, di Rosa is still home to several eucalyptus trees throughout the property. Some trees have even housed projects by artists in the di Rosa collection.



Lorna Stevens
Suspended Animation, 2016
lornastevens.com



Rene and Veronica di Rosa in a tree house built by artist David Best (this structure burned down in the 2017 wildfires)
Photo by Fitzgerald Whitney, Los Angeles Times, 1980.

What would you do with
a eucalyptus tree?

Let us know!

@dirosaart or #dirosaart