

Eleocarpus reticulatus

Botanical name: *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*

Common name: Blueberry Ash, Fairy Petticoats, Koda

Morphological Characters:

Described as either a small tree or tall shrub, this evergreen species grows between 3-15m tall and 3-5m wide. It has a dense crown of foliage, and an approximately conical form. It needs little maintenance to thrive, surviving well in low nutrient and dry soils (although it performs best when well watered). This species grows in a range of light intensities, from shade through to full sun. This plant belongs to the small family Elaeocarpaceae, which has ancient tropical origins. *E. reticulatus* has retained some rainforest traits, such as a slightly flared or buttress trunk. The leathery leaves (to 12cm long) are lanceolate with a slightly elongate drip-tip apex and serrated margins. An interesting feature displayed in some of the leaves is a fine, whitish crust or film over the surface, giving the appearance of an evaporated salt layer. As the leaves age, they turn a bright red whilst still on the tree, providing an appealing colour contrast with the dark green foliage.



Growing season and Type:

1. *E. reticulatus* is naturally found in a wide range of environments, from moist gullies through to rocky ridge outcrops and sandy coastal scrubs.
2. The warmer temperate conditions along the coast suit this species, and it is not found at cooler high altitudes or in areas experiencing frosts.
3. The extended fruiting season (April - October) often sees the fruit remaining on the plant into the next flower season (October - January).
4. This special quality results in a long ornamental display of flowers, fruits or both together, almost all year round.



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1) Flower of *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*

2) Leaf of *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*

3) *Elaeocarpus reticulatus* tree

Source:<http://floragreatlakes.info/html/rfspecies/reticulatus.html>