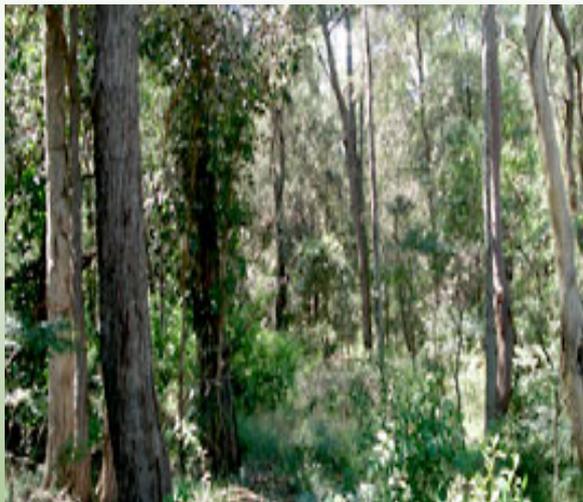


Sydney Turpentine - Ironbark Forest



What is Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest?

Is a rare forest community that occurs on ridgetop caps of Wianamatta Shale areas with clay soils derived from Wianamatta Shale, or shale layers within Hawkesbury Sandstone.

Turpentine-Ironbark Forest is only found in the Sydney Basin region. It is associated with the rim of the Cumberland Plain and lower Blue Mountains (including the Hornsby and Woronora Plateaus), and is restricted to a small number of sites in the Blue Mountains.

Turpentine-Ironbark Forest is listed as a **critically endangered community** under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, which is the highest protection offered by the federal government.

Habitat and Ecology

Turpentine-Ironbark Forest typically occurs in moderately wet sites on more fertile clay soils derived from Wianamatta shale, on the higher altitude margins of the Cumberland Plain, and on the shale ridge caps of sandstone plateaus. This forest may occur on plateaus and hillsides and on the margins of shale cappings over sandstone.

It is a transitional community found between Cumberland Plain Woodland in western Sydney and adjacent higher rainfall areas of Blue Mountains Shale Cap Forest across the ridges of Springwood, Yellow Rock & Winmalee.

Original Distribution

Historical records show that this vegetation community would have originally extended from Glebe and Newtown west to Auburn, covering much of the land now occupied by the inner south-western suburbs between the coast and Parramatta.

Large areas of this forest type have been cleared for agriculture and urban development. The areas remaining are small and scattered forests. Identified threats include: clearing, recreational activities, rubbish dumping, grazing, mowing, and weed invasion.

Only small areas of Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest are presently included in conservation reserves. It is estimated that only 4.5% of the original area of forest exists in the form of a number of remnants.



Turpentine juvenile leaves



Whorled leaf arrangement



Turpentine bark



Turpentine Fruit



Kangaroo Grass



Weeping Meadow Grass

Image: S. Payne

Typical Native Plants

Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest represents a drier and generally lower altitude variant of Blue Mountains Shale Cap Forest.

The primary difference is the absence of Mountain Blue Gums (*Eucalyptus deanei*), and the usual dominance of Turpentine (*Syncarpia glomulifera*), sometimes along with ironbark species such as Narrow-leaved Ironbark (*Eucalyptus crebra*) and Broad-leaved Ironbark (*Eucalyptus fibrosa*).

Ironbarks can be absent or rare due to historic logging.

The understory is reasonably open, and composed of herbaceous plants - vines and grasses such as Weeping Meadow Grass (*Microlaena stipoides*) and shrubs such as Native Cherry (*Exocarpus cupressiformis*) with scattered prickly shrubs, pea plants, native daisies and lilies..



Image: R. Mann

Lace Monitor



Crimson Rosella



Australian Owlet-nightjar



Sugar Glider

Current Distribution

Over 200 years of intensive land use has affected the Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest.

Most of these forests have been cleared with less than 5% of original forest intact. Only a few healthy remnants remain in the Blue Mountains. Locations in Springwood include St Thomas's School.



Narrow-leaved Ironbark

Narrow-leaved Ironbark (*Eucalyptus crebra*)



Bark is often pale grey and less deeply furrowed, and bark is persistent on the whole tree



Has narrow, grey-green lanceolate-shaped leaves



Juvenile: Has an 'intra-marginal' vein just inside the margin of the leaf



Diamond shaped buds and fruit are very small



Flowers are creamy white in autumn



Fruit is very small

Latin - *crowded* or *close together*

Broad-leaved Ironbark (*Eucalyptus fibrosa*)



Bark is flakey and crumbly, and dark grey-black to pale grey with tan in the deep furrows



Leaves are wider than other ironbarks, broadly lance-shaped



The juvenile leaves are almost circular



Buds are diamond shaped



Flowers are creamy white - usually from November through to January



The fruit has a raised disc and exserted

Latin - *fibrosus* refers to the bark

You can find out if you have any of these forests on your land by using Blue Mountains City Council's **Interactive Mapping Program**. http://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/bmccmap/parcel_search.cfm