Quintessential California: Modeling Eucalyptus Trees

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Overview

• Eucalyptus - botanically
• Introduction into California
• Association with the Railroads
• Association with Agriculture
• Models
  – JTT
  – AMSI
• Homemade
Eucalyptus - Botanically

• Native to Australia
• 700+ different species
• Myrtle Family
• Range in size from 10 feet to 200 feet
  – Tallest Eucalyptus is a Eucalyptus regnans in Tasmania at 327.5 feet
• Frost intolerant
Eucalyptus - Botanically

• Most common
  – Eucalyptus globulus – Blue Gum
  – Eucalyptus camaldulensis – Red Gum
  – Eucalyptus citriodora – Lemon-scented Gum
Introduction to California

• In 1856, William Walker of San Francisco planted a few Eucalyptus seeds he had imported from Australia on his estate.

• In 1860, Oakland nurseryman Stephen Nolan imported seeds for 150 different Eucalyptus species after being impressed by the rapid growth of the specimens at William Walker’s estate.
Introduction to California

• In 1875, Goleta horticulturalist Ellwood Cooper planted 50,000 seedlings on his property. He later wrote a book *Forest Culture and Eucalyptus Trees* and touted their virtues.

• Popularity of the Eucalyptus rose to the “craze” level with people planting the trees by the thousands in get-rich-quick schemes.
Association with the Railroad

- In 1876, 300 trees planted at the Southern Pacific (SP) Sacramento shops to provide shade and “fight Malaria”
- An additional 2700 trees were later planted
- Seeds arrived earlier in shipments of forge coal from Australia for the blacksmith shop
- 1883 SP encouraged the planting of Eucalyptus along its tracks as an extra source of hardwood for ties, construction material, and fuel.
Association with the Railroad

• Experiment showed that the wood could not be dried and milled, fuel use was not great, it harbored pests, and it was a fire hazard
• 1898 fire that destroyed the Sacramento Car Shops caused rethinking of the use of Eucalyptus near buildings
• 1907 extensive [seven years] testing of Eucalyptus ties in the Nevada desert. A report of the testing was published by the state of California
• Santa Fe Railroad conducted similar tests with the same results
Association with Agriculture

- Primary use as a wind break for citrus groves
- Included in some citrus labels
- Some secondary use as firewood
Citrus Labels
Models

JTT Pro Elite
Gum Tree

2”, 4” and 8”

https://www.jttmikroscale.com
Models

AMSI
[Architectural Model Supply Inc.]

4”
Size and Shape

Height

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Prototype</th>
<th>N-scale</th>
<th>HO-scale</th>
<th>O-Scale</th>
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<tr>
<td>Eucalyptus globulus Blue Gum</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eucalyptus camaldulensis Red Gum</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eucalyptus citriodora Lemon-scented Gum</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>18.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Shape

Tall, relatively straight trunks, spreading umbrella top story with leaves hanging but bunched at the ends of branches
Size and Shape
Homemade Trees

• Natural structure sources
  – Nandina domestica – Heavenly Bamboo
  – Eriogonum gigantea – St Catherine’s Lace
  – Sedum spectabile – Autumn Joy

• Dowel
• Spray Paint
• Modeling clay/modeling paste
• Spray adhesive
• Ground foam
• Acrylic or oil paint
• Raffia
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