Eucalyptus

“There are three classes of people: those who see, those who see when they are shown, those who do not see”

~ Leonardo da Vinci

Effect of Eucalyptus on Environment

One of the biggest problems with eucalyptus trees is their negative impact on the environment.

They have replaced indigenous forests in several parts of the world, depleting food and shelter sources and therefore affecting animals and birds. The lack of broad-leaved trees also means there are not as many nesting places for animals that inhabit them, such as mammals, birds and insects.

Indigenous trees are more fire resistant, while the eucalyptus is prone to fire. The natural oils of the eucalyptus tree make it extremely flammable. This is a big problem in areas that are prone to bush fires. That same oil that makes the eucalyptus flammable also keep bugs from eating it. While this is great for the eucalyptus, it also means that there aren't bugs or animals helping to control the population of the eucalyptus.

Eucalyptus release into the environment substances acting as germination and growth inhibitors, this allelopathic effect disturbs all natural weeds, shrubs and other trees of growing under or near eucalyptus plantations killing so biodiversity and keeping it a monoculture “forest”.

If you’ve ever tried to get rid of eucalyptus old stumps on your property, you probably know how difficult it can be. Even if you cut the tree down, the tree stump can sprout a new eucalyptus tree.

Eucalyptus trees are quite tall and their roots don’t run deep, so they blow over easily. This is a huge problem in windy conditions. For this reason it's a good idea to avoid planting eucalyptus trees too close to homes or businesses. Easy dropping unexpectedly of branches is recognized a real danger to humans. Do never seek shelter or camp under eucalyptus trees.

They become competitors to water for animal and human consumption. The water guzzling tree is taken blame for drying out many water sources across the globe. As we continue to plant eucalyptus on watersheds, we will continue to experience water shortages and it will even become a bigger problem as climate change hit us.