

AS 2543—1983

Australian Standard[®]

**NOMENCLATURE OF
AUSTRALIAN TIMBERS**

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The following interests were represented on the Committee TM/101:

Australian Federation of Timber Merchants Association
Australian Institute of Building
CSIRO, Division of Building Research
Department of Public Works, NSW
Forest Products Association of Western Australia
Housing trusts and commissions
Lending institutions
Master Builders Federation of Australia
National Association of Australian State Road Authorities
Radiata Pine Association of Australia
Royal Australian Institute of Architects
Sawmillers Associations
State Forestry Departments
Timber Advisory Council of New South Wales
Timber Merchants Associations
Timber Promotion Council, Victoria
Timber Research and Development Advisory Council
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**NOMENCLATURE OF
AUSTRALIAN TIMBERS**

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PREFACE

This standard was prepared under the direction of the Association's Committee on Structural Timber Products to supersede AS O2-1970.

The purpose of this Nomenclature of Australian Timbers is to provide a list of standard trade names necessary for the more orderly identification, marketing and use of the timber and other forest products from trees grown in Australia.

In addition to the standard trade names, which should be used when ordering or describing material from these species, a number of names in localized use have been listed as a possible aid in identifying species where the standard trade name is not yet universal or where old references are consulted. However it will be noted that in many cases these local names are often applied to widely divergent species, which can be very confusing, so it is in the interests of standardization and clarity of meaning that the use of such local names be discouraged.

Botanical names have also been listed to assist the accurate identification of species. Botanical nomenclature is still in the process of development and this has made it difficult to reach consensus as to the correct scientific name for many species. Just as there were many changes in botanical nomenclature between the 1965 and 1970 editions of this standard, so too have there been many alterations in this edition. Botanical names are in a constant state of change; this is most unfortunate from the viewpoint of standardization and the memorizing of the words but in keeping up with research in botanical taxonomy such changes cannot be avoided.

A considerable number of new species, mainly of the Queensland rainforests, have been included.

The listing of a species does not infer that the tree is of a size suitable for use in sawmilling; many species have been listed because of their importance, or potential importance, as a source of other types of forest product, e.g. essential oils, drugs, paper manufacture.

The Australian States in which the species occurs to a significant extent are listed but this does not take into consideration the presence of the species as a result of ornamental plantings. At the request of the National Standards Council of Papua New Guinea reference to species that also occur in that country have been retained.

The standard trade names of 35 species listed in the 1970 nomenclature have been changed in this edition. Some changes have been outright, while other changes result from amalgamation under names such as 'silver ash', 'figwood', and 'sassafras'. This practice has been followed where the wood of the several species is so similar that there is no merit in separating them for marketing purposes. The new names are indicated in Part 1 by an asterisk against the name and the old and new names are listed in Appendix A.

In the 1970 edition, species for which the botanical name was not fully established were often listed in the form, for example, 'satinash, onion—*Eugenia* sp.aff. *suborbicularis*

Benth.'; in this edition such botanical names have only the suffix 'sp.'.

This standard is in three Parts:

Part 1— Alphabetical List of Standard Trade Names and their Corresponding Botanical Names (serially numbered)

Part 2— Alphabetical Index of All Names

Part 3— Alphabetical List of Authors of Botanical Names

A number of terms used in the nomenclature require some explanation:

auctt. austral. The term means that the name has been given by Australian botanists but that the species was validly named differently at an earlier date by other botanists.

formerly Where a botanical name was not validly published or was incorrectly applied, it cannot be regarded as a synonym so such names are preceded by 'formerly'.

included (incl.) Where it has been demonstrated that a 'variety' is just an individual variant within a species, or where two or more species have been named from specimens now considered to be not specifically distinct, the later species is 'included' in the earlier one.

nomen nudum A name that was published without botanical description or diagnosis, or reference to either.

sens. lat. Literally means 'in the broad sense', signifying a variable species which when further investigated may be subdivided into several distinct species.

sp. This indicates that there may be a separate species but the botanical name has not been determined.

subspecies (subsp.) This is a subdivision from the species level.

synonym (syn.) A name which has been superseded as the correct scientific name by the name which now precedes it in the listing. It has been included because of its common use in the timber industry and in past reference books.

variety (var.) This is a subdivision from the species level.

= Means probably synonymous. It has not been clarified with certainty as a true synonym.

Part 2 is a comprehensive index of all the names used in Part 1. The index numbers of the standard trade names are shown in bold type to facilitate the location of the key names in Part 1. Each trade name is listed only once. For example, mountain grey gum is only listed as gum, grey,

mountain and all the grey gums are listed together. Departures have been made from this principle only in the case of the cypress pines, the silky oaks and the tulip oaks. Because these names are often treated as compound names, they are indexed twice, e.g. as 'cypress pine, white' and 'pine, cypress, white'.

Part 3 is a list of authors of botanical names, of the abbreviations used for the authors' names, of the year of birth of the author and if the author is deceased, the year

of death, if known. Although much research and enquiry was made both within Australia and overseas it has not been found possible to complete Part 3 entirely.

The committee which prepared this standard was greatly assisted by the cooperation received from State Forest Services, National Herbaria, and timber trade organizations. This Association gratefully acknowledges the assistance received from these sources.

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STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

for

NOMENCLATURE OF AUSTRALIAN TIMBERS**PART 1. ALPHABETICAL LIST OF STANDARD TRADE NAMES AND THEIR
CORRESPONDING BOTANICAL NAMES**

SCOPE OF PART I. This part lists the standard trade names of 789 species or groups of species of Australian timbers. The standard trade names are in alphabetical sequence, based on the noun in the common name, e.g. grey gum is listed as gum, grey. Alongside each common name is given the botanical name or names and the authors of such names. In the fourth column is shown the State or States in which each timber occurs, the States being indicated as follows:

- N = New South Wales
- Q = Queensland
- S = South Australia
- T = Tasmania
- V = Victoria
- W = Western Australia
- Y = Northern Territory

NOTE: The letter G indicates that the species also occurs in Papua-New Guinea. At the request of the National Standards Council of Papua New Guinea, the references to that country's species in the 1970 edition of this standard have been retained, but no attempt has been made to incorporate the local Papua New Guinea names.

Information on other Papua New Guinea timbers has not been included, but some of the timbers are included in AS 1148 Nomenclature of Commercial Timbers Imported into Australia.

In the third column, headed 'Classification', the letter 'H' indicates hardwood; or more specifically, the timbers of the botanical group *Angiosperms*, not all of which possess hard wood. The letter 'S' indicates the softwoods or timbers of the botanical group *Gymnosperms*, most of which are conifers. The index number shown in the left-hand column facilitates reference from Part 2, Alphabetical Index of All Names, to where those names are used in Part 1. In the column at the extreme right are listed 'local names' that have been, or are used for many timbers.