



What Woodland is that?

Sub-community profile: Black Morrel Woodland

In the central and eastern Wheatbelt you'll find Black Morrel (*Eucalyptus melanoxyton*), forming one of the Wheatbelt eucalypt woodland sub-communities.

This sub-community can be found in sand or clay loam soils, on depressions and flats, and on dunes around the edges of lakes.

Black Morrel is often seen with Red Morrel, Salmon gum, Merrit and Square-fruited mallee. Some common understorey species include Goldfields daisy (*Olearia muelleri*), Boree (*Melaleuca pauperiflora*), Broom bush (*Eremophila scoparia*), Centipede bush (*Templetonia sulcata*), Merrall's wattle (*Acacia merrallii*), Pink Purslane (*Calandrinia calyptrate*), Twining Fringe Lily (*Thysanotus patersonii*) and Bladder saltbush (*Atriplex vesicaria*).

A Black Morrel tree can grow to 14 metres, with rough grey bark that extends to the mid branches, with smooth white to cream and light tan bark on the upper branches. It has white flowers in December to March.

Red Morrel (*Eucalyptus longicornis*), Welcome Hill gum (*Eucalyptus aequioperta*) and Small-fruited gum (*Eucalyptus myriadena*) all look superficially similar to Black Morrel. Red Morrel are significantly taller than Black Morrel and the rough bark on a Red Morrel

extends much further up the branches.

Small-fruited gum is best differentiated from Black Morrel by having much smaller buds and fruit. The Welcome Hill gum tends to have more grey and coppery coloured bark on the upper branches, as opposed to the whitish-creamy and light tan upper branches of the Black Morrel.

It is likely that Black Morrel woodlands are home to rare flora and fauna, however so little research has been done on this woodland type that we're unable to confidently list any species that rely on this habitat.

Further information:

[https://naturemap.dbca.wa.gov.au/resources/acc/communities/RED_MORREL/Eucalyptus_melanoxyton_\(Black_Morrel\)_Woodland.htm](https://naturemap.dbca.wa.gov.au/resources/acc/communities/RED_MORREL/Eucalyptus_melanoxyton_(Black_Morrel)_Woodland.htm)

https://apps.lucidcentral.org/euclid/text/entities/eucalyptus_melanoxyton.htm

<https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/d1d1d634-a913-4a40-baaa-6344a0aaba5e/files/arid-eucalypt-descriptions-2.pdf>

Eucalyptuses of Western Australia's Wheatbelt, a book by Malcolm French: <https://www.eucalyptsofwa.com.au/eucalyptsofwawheatbelt>



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