

Forest Types

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Dry Eucalypt Forest

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They are open forests with a wide range of plant species – trees in many dry eucalypt forests have adapted to low-nutrient soils and lack of water.

These forests rarely regenerate without some kind of disturbance. It may be a low-intensity fire that kills some of the trees; damage to trees by storms; or old trees dying – all these things create space in the forests and allow seedlings to grow.

Cool Temperate Rainforest

95 % of Australia's cool temperate rainforest occurs in Tasmania.

Most Tasmanian rainforest is in the western half of the island, in places where the annual rainfall is over 1200 mm.

The biggest area of rainforest is in the Tarkine region, between the Arthur and Pieman Rivers in the north-west.

Rainforests do not need fire to regenerate – seedlings of rainforest trees can establish beneath a shady canopy. Then, when a mature tree falls and a gap appears, they grow upward towards the light.

Wet Eucalypt Forest

Tasmania's widespread wet eucalypt forests thrive in areas of fertile soils and good rainfall.

These forests need fire to regenerate – they are dense, so wildfires are fierce, killing some trees and clearing the understorey, creating a good seedbed for regrowth.

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Fascinating Forest Facts

One of the world's oldest living organisms is in a Tasmanian forest.

It's a stand of genetically-identical Huon pines on the West Coast. They have been reproducing vegetatively (when separate shoots live and die, but share the same root system) for about 10,000 years.

Of Tasmania's 29 species of eucalypt, 25 are found in the island's dry eucalypt forests. But our wet eucalypt forests are dominated by just three eucalypt species – stringybark, gum-topped stringybark and swamp gum.

