

## Leaf vein network (reticulation density, leaves of mature crown)

In most species of eucalypts a leaf vein network is made up of the midrib (primary vein), side veins (secondary veins) and a mass of linking veins (veinlets - tertiary and quaternary veins). The strength and thickness of the veins diminishes from the primary (midrib) to the tertiary and quaternary veins (veinlets), if present.

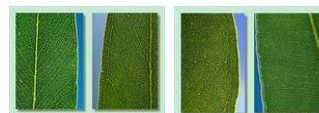
In a very few species the vein network consists of no more than the midrib, the intramarginal vein and a few obscure side vein fragments.

Assess mature adult leaves with a handlens whilst holding the leaf up to a strong light (sunlight is best).



Sparsely reticulate

Moderately reticulate



Densely reticulate

Very densely reticulate

### Sparsely reticulate

Little venation is present beyond the side veins (e.g. *Eucalyptus mckieana*), or the side veins are obscure or absent (e.g. *E. depauperata*).

### Moderately reticulate

A network of minor veins joins the side veins (e.g. *Eucalyptus articulata*). There may be some further veining, often with "dead ends" (a veinlet leaves another veinlet and does not connect with any other, ie. ending in a space, e.g. *E. diversifolia*). Basically, the leaf in this category is divided into large, unveined "green" areas. These unveined areas are the areoles.

### Densely reticulate

The whole leaf area is divided into a dense network, with few or no "dead ends", producing a mass of small, uniform areoles (e.g. *E. cosmophylla*).

### Very densely reticulate

The whole leaf area is divided into a dense network of minute areoles, often less than 1mm across. This patterning is seen in many tropical species (e.g. *Corymbia clarksoniana*) and some boxes (e.g. *E. dawsonii*).

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