

Visual, ground-based, scoring system for eucalypt crown dieback

(Prepared by Christine Stone, July 2006)

Crown size and shape (overall degree of crown dieback – present extent of living foliage compared to the estimated amount that would have been presented by the original, unaffected crown)

- 5 - Large, vigorous = Well balanced, fully-extended crown, shaped by large branches containing a healthy 'hierarchy' of smaller branches supporting foliage
- 3 - Moderate = Moderately-contracted crown, non-uniform in shape with foliage unevenly distributed. Approximately half of the outer, smaller branches dead or missing.
- 1 - Contracted = Crown contracted, all outer branches dead or missing, foliage on only major branches or stem arising from epicormic growth

Crown foliar density (inverse to crown transparency)

- 5 - Very dense = Very dense leaf clumps with even distribution of clumps over the crown. Very little light penetrating the leaf clumps
- 4 - Dense = Dense leaf clumps distributed unevenly over the crown
- 3 - Moderate = Clumps of average density with reasonable distribution or dense clumps very unevenly spread
- 2 - Sparse = Clumps are sparse and poorly spread
- 1 - Very sparse = Very few leaves anywhere in crown

Dead branches

- 5 - Nil = No visible dead branches or branchlets/shoots in the crown
- 4 - Dead terminal shoots = On close inspection some dead terminal branches are evident but not over all the crown
- 3 - Dead small branches = Some small branches are dead but not over all the crown. These are easily observed but do not give the impression of seriously affecting the crown
- 2 - Dead main branches = Some large and/or small branches dead over part of the crown with the obvious impression of serious branch death
- 1 - Dead main branches = Large and small branches dead over most of the crown which is obviously dying

Crown epicormic growth

- 5 - Nil = Limbs clean, growth concentrated at branch extremities
- 3 - Moderate = Moderate amount of epicormic growth is present over most of the crown but foliage from primary shoots still present
- 1 - Severe = Epicormic growth is dominant source of foliage over most of the crown

Foliar damage

- 5 - Low = No insect or fungal damage visible in the crown from the ground, no reddish/purple or brown discoloration present or only a small amount on old foliage
- 3 - Moderate = Obvious reddish/purple or brown discoloration on some of the foliage, insect or fungal damage may be visible from the ground
- 1 - High = Insect or fungal damage severe enough to be visible from the ground, foliage may have a 'tatty' appearance. Crown has an overall reddish/purple or brown coloration

(A maximum score of 25 represents a very healthy, vigorous tree crown)