

*Eucalyptus spp*

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When I read the report "Advance of *Eucalyptus* worries", published in the newspaper Gazeta do Povo on 01/04/2009, I was really concerned, not with all the legends attributed to the species, but rather with the lack of preparation of some rulers and their advisors, as well as some technicians from other areas who put their ideas irresponsibly and without technical knowledge to do so, causing unnecessary terrorism among many readers who do not have a duty to know the subject, but rather curiosity to seek greater Information.

One of the criticisms that is usually made to the genus *Eucalyptus* spp is that it needs a lot of water during the growth phase, without considering the need for other species. This is disproved by studies, which have shown that there is not much difference between water consumption of forest and agricultural species, including the genus *Eucalyptus* spp.

The examples below show the water deficit between different cultures.

Amount of water required during a year or crop cycle	
Culture	Water consumption (mm)
Sugarcane	100-2000
Coffee	800-1200
Citrus	600-1200
Corn	400-800
Beans	300-600
<i>Eucalyptus</i>	800-1200
Note: 1 mm (mm) corresponds to 1 liter per square meter.	
Cast: CALDER., et al. 1992.	

**Table 1**

Comparison between <i>Eucalyptus</i> water consumption and other crops	
Culture/Coverage	Water use efficiency
Potato	1 kg potato/2,000 l
Corn	1 kg corn/1,000 l
Sugarcane	1 kg sugar/500 l
Closed	1 kg madeira/2,500 l
<i>Eucalyptus</i>	1 kgmadeira/350 l
Source: NOVAIS., et al. 1996.	

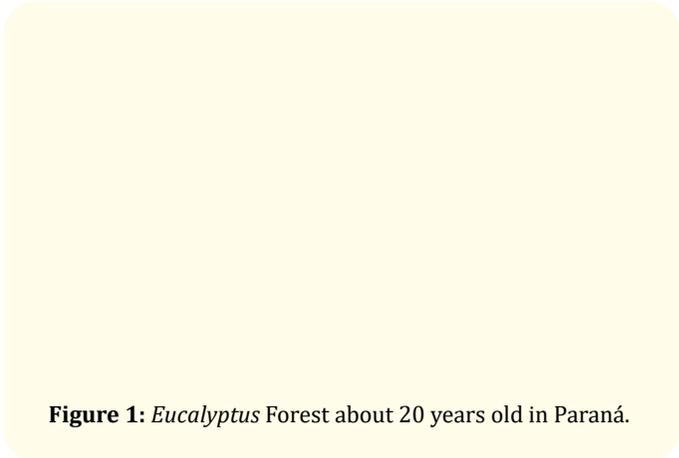
**Table 2**

We never knew that coffee dries the land, but the water deficiency of the crop is the same as *Eucalyptus* spp, the annual consumption of the two crops varies between 800 and 1200 mm of water, while sugarcane needs 100 to 2000 mm of water in the same period. We are not condemning sugarcane, but showing how much water the genus *Eucalyptus* spp needs.

The aggression to the soil caused in the culture of tree species should be lower than in non-tree crops, since its deep roots ensure greater support to the soil and underground layers, thus avoiding the carrying of material with the flood of rains causing the appearance of ditches and causing the whistling of streams and rivers. A fact that much is seen around highways and roads caused by the lack of planning of owners and public managers.

The consumption of water by vegetation depends on the climate and the total area of forest leaves (the so-called leaf area index) and holds a direct relationship with photosynthesis.

Proven underground wells, small streams and springs are affected by the disorderly deforestation of their riparian forests, unnecessary land movement that causes water whistling, but never by the cultivation of a species. That is, because it fails to comply with the forest code or the norms and resolutions dictated by CONAMA (National Council for the Environment), either out of ignorance or for a pure lack of responsibility is that we face in certain places, a sad reality of naked soil, with lack of nutrients and in the desertification phase, compacted and with its water springs extinct.



**Figure 1:** *Eucalyptus* Forest about 20 years old in Paraná.

According to Prof. Walter de Paula Lima - LCF/ESALQ/USP - "Green desert? With the proper management, which takes into account the maintenance of environmental values and services of the landscape, the photo shows that *Eucalyptus* does not exclude biological diversity".

The genus *Eucalyptus* spp has within the plantations a shade similar to several tree species, which results in the lack of vegetation in the understory at a certain time of the forest development. After reaching a few meters in height, the vegetation recomposes inside the stands. If it had a deadly toxin, companies that use this crop would not spend many thousands of dollars per year to fight the competition with herbicide application to which reforestation is subjected. Any close observer will notice in areas planted with *Eucalyptus* where proper management has been carried out that the forest does not exclude biological diversity.

For now it is assumption based on complex models that have been developed from the finding of the gradual increase in the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, the so-called greenhouse effect, mainly due to the burning of fossil fuels. Reforestation can help hijack this excess carbon from the atmosphere, experts point out.

The interest of public governments in preserving their municipalities is valid, but should be extended to education and health, better working on garbage collection and adequate disposal for waste produced in cities so that they do not degrade the environment and the environment, encouraging selective collection and recycling plants, better planning land movement, construction of housing estates and the construction of dams, thus preserving water springs and maintaining soil coverage, charging the snakes of and encouraging the conservation and maintenance of riparian forests with thought of sustainable use of renewable and non-renewable natural goods and also madeable and non-timberable products.

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