**INTRODUCTION**

Sawmilling experience has identified the 'stringybark' group of eucalypts as more easily-sawn, and suitable for the production of naturally-durable, engineering and appearance grade timber.

This study compared the wood properties, and sawn lumber characteristics of 4 eucalypt species at age 25 years, *E. muelleriana* and *E. globoidea* both stringybarks, closely related *E. pilularis*, and *E. fastigata*, an ash.

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**The search** - for eucalypt species that are fast-grown, relatively free of pests and diseases, with good sawing, seasoning and timber properties.

**The Vision:** - to create a hardwood timber industry in New Zealand  
- to produce high-quality timbers for different markets than radiata

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**PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS:**

- High variation among the 15 trees sampled of each species for most traits measured, masks the differences between species.
- Internal checking insignificant for all 4 species.
- All 4 species were similar in appearance and wood characteristics and could be marketed together. *E. fastigata* is restricted to internal use, whereas *E. pilularis*, *E. muelleriana* and *E. globoidea* have durable heartwood and can be used externally.