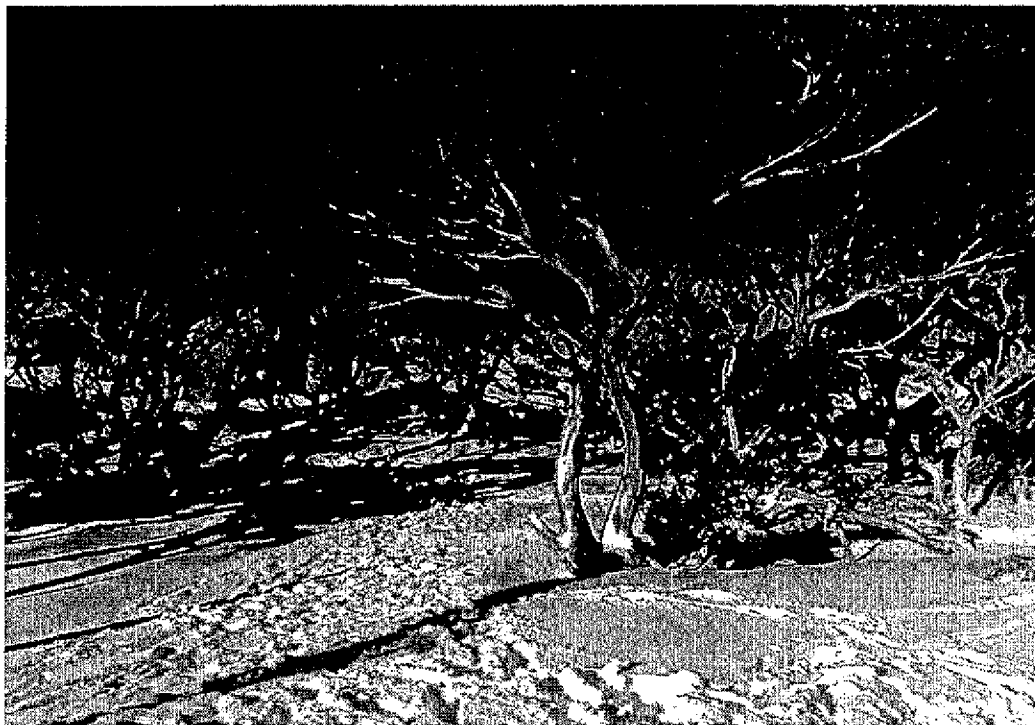


SNOW-GUM

Eucalyptus pauciflora (snow gum) is a species of flowering plant in the family Myrtaceae. It is a small tree or large shrub growing 4-8 m (13-26 ft) tall, occasionally reaching 20 m (66 ft), and native to subalpine and lowland habitats in eastern Australia. It is amongst the hadiest of all eucalyptus species, surviving the severe winter temperatures of the Australian Alps.^[1] Other common names include cabbage gum, weeping gum and white sallee.^[2]

The bark of *Eucalyptus pauciflora* is smooth and white to light grey or sometimes brown-red, shedding in patches or strips to give a mottled appearance. The grey-green adult leaves are usually lanceolate (tapering to a point) with distinct parallel veins, but may be narrowly ovate. The tree is covered in a mass of white flowers in spring and summer. Rather than losing its leaves in winter/autumn, the tree is evergreen, adapting to the weight of snow by progressively bending its branches so that the outermost branches extend vertically down and snow is shed from the leaves.



Analysing Snow-Gum.

1. What is the moment of beauty that Stewart captures in the poem?
2. In stanza 1 what action is described as
 'In noon's blue and silvery
 Flowering of light on snow'? How is the image created by these words distinctive?
- 3 List the specific words used to describe the tree in stanza 2.
 What image of the tree is created by Stewart through this word choice?
- 4 How does Stewart convey the tree's majesty in stanza 3?
- 5 The word perfect, or variations of it, is used in each stanza. What idea is suggested by the repetition of this? How does Stewart support the use of this word throughout the poem?
- 6 Colours are an important feature in this poem. List the colours used and what they describe.
 How does the use of these adjectives present a distinctive image of the gum and its surroundings?