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## PLEASE PROTECT ME

I am a very rare specimen tree in your area. In order to ensure my survival, please protect me by following these suggestions:

1. Do not injure my trunk.
2. Keep all machines and weed whips away.
3. Do not over water me.
4. Do not trim foliage that emerges from the trunk.
5. Do not write graffiti on my trunk.



6. I respond well to a regular application of a complete fertilizer.
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The Department of Recreation and Parks maintains and protects hundreds of heritage trees. Heritage trees are individual trees of any size or species that are specifically designated as heritage because of their historical, commemorative, or horticultural significance. Preserving these treasures is important for future generations to admire. For further information, please contact the Department of Recreation and Parks at the address below.



**CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS  
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Manuel A. Mollinedo**

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3900 W. Chevy Chase Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90039

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# THE SPIDER GUM

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## HERITAGE TREE



*Palisades Park &  
Recreation Center  
851 Alma Real Dr.  
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272*

**Tel: (310) 454-1412**

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# Spider Gum *Eucalyptus lehmanii*

G'Day mate!!! I am sorry if I startled you. Don't be afraid by the monstrous appearance of my flower buds. Although they look sinister, they



are quit harmless. Botanist refer to me as *Eucalyptus lehmanii* but most people call me the spider gum. I belong to a group of plants that are native to Australia. You can see many of the other common gum trees planted through out the



park and in your neighborhood. There are only two trees of my species planted in your park. Inform your family and

friends of my presence. Tell them to come over to admire my splendor and beauty.

## FLOWER

Among all the *Eucalyptus* tree in the world, my flowers are by far the most bizarre and interesting.



Unlike my relatives, my flowers are fused together, forming a large inflorescence. I also produce a large bud cap that aids in the protection of

the flower during its development stages. The bud cap can extend for several inches giving my flower buds, a spider like appearance. Due to the appearance of my flower buds, I was given the common name of the "The Spider Gum". At



maturity the flower bud caps drop and they reveal large quantities of yellow-green stamens. To some people my flower resemble a powder puff brush. In my native land, my flowers are pollinated by many species of honeyeaters. Honeyeaters are a group of birds that visit my flowers in search of sweet nectar. Unlike the New World Hummingbirds, honeyeaters cannot

hover and need to perch to eat. I produce my flowers along the stem or on woody branches to provide the honeyeaters with a landing platform or a place for them to



[http://www.calm.wa.gov.au/national\\_parks/previous\\_parks\\_month/cape\\_arid.html](http://www.calm.wa.gov.au/national_parks/previous_parks_month/cape_arid.html)

perch. This phenomena is referred to as "CAULIFLORY". Honeyeaters enjoy the nectar that I produce for them. While enjoying the sweet nectar, pollen is adhered to the feathers and taken to other flowers. When the pollen is transferred to another flower, pollination takes place and produc-



tion of seeds begins. After pollination, the stamens drop off leaving a woody fruit capsule. The fruit capsule is sought out by florist who use them to make flower arrangements.