

# Vintage Red™

Eucalyptus cladocalyx 'EUC78' (b)

ADVANCED TREE RANGE

# Pest Control for Vintage Red

## Caterpillars

With the recent wet weather there has been an increase in caterpillar numbers around, so it is a good idea to keep an eye out for caterpillars chewing on your Vintage Red plants. Most of the time caterpillar problems are only noticed once damage has occurred and you are left wondering where they have come from. Usually in

spring and autumn, different species of caterpillars such as the gum tree sawfly can find Vintage Red appealing and can feed on the new growth of the plant. It is quite important to try and detect these pests early before major damage can occur and the plant becomes significantly defoliated. If a plant becomes too badly affected it

can be set back and sometimes the plant does not recover - it can struggle to regrow to its former self. The best way to control caterpillars is to spray with Confidor, which is a systemic insecticide. Confidor will travel through the plant and kill the caterpillars when they eat the leaf.

## Gum Tree Scale

Also take note of gum tree scale, which seems to be less of a problem but may appear on the stems and the leaves of the tree. They cluster together and you will often find sooty mould growing around them from the honeydew that they secrete. The best way to control them is to brush or wipe them off the affected areas with a damp cloth. Chemical treatments such as Confidor can also be applied if necessary.



*Keep an eye out for caterpillars chewing on your Vintage Red plants*

## Initiator

An easy way to have instant long lasting protection against these insect pests is to simply give the plant a tablet when you are planting. This tablet is a new product called Initiator produced by Bayer and can be placed in the bottom of the hole covered by soil when planting. Initiator provides enhanced growth with inbuilt fertiliser and long lasting systemic insecticide protection against the damage caused by various insects. Initiator's active ingredient is Imidacloprid, which is the same active ingredient used in Confidor. The tablet eliminates the use of sprays and is very easy to use even with established in-ground or potted plants. Initiator can be used on many

different plants but is ideal for use on Eucalypts like Vintage Red, especially in landscape plantings and public areas where it is difficult to spray. Initiator gives you peace of mind and protection from the day the plants are planted. Initiator is available from all good horticultural suppliers.

***With the right care and protection from insects, Vintage Red is a healthy, unique tree.***

