

# Propagating *Citriodora* Through Grafting

## *Corymbia* 'Scentuous'



The *Corymbia citriodora* 'Scentuous,' often referred to as the dwarf lemon-scented gum, is a popular choice for gardens with limited space. This petite powerhouse boasts the same refreshing lemon scent and smooth white bark as its larger counterpart, the *Corymbia citriodora*, but with a more restrained growth habit.

But how do you propagate these fragrant favorites? Unlike many plants that can be easily multiplied through stem cuttings or division, *Corymbia citriodora* 'Scentuous' is propagated through grafting.

### **What is Grafting?**

Grafting is a horticultural technique that involves joining the vascular tissues (think the plant's internal plumbing system) of two separate plants. The upper part, called the scion, is the desired variety you want to propagate (in our case, *Corymbia citriodora* 'Scentuous'). The lower portion, known as the rootstock, provides the root system and influences some growth characteristics.

### **Why Graft 'Scentuous' *Corymbia*?**

There are several reasons why grafting is the preferred method for propagating *Corymbia citriodora* 'Scentuous':

- **Ensures Desired Traits:** Grafting guarantees the new tree will possess the specific characteristics of the scion, including the compact size and delightful fragrance of 'Scentuous.'
- **Promotes Uniformity:** Grafting helps produce trees with consistent growth habits and mature heights, making them ideal for streetscapes, parks, or planned landscaping projects.
- **Overcomes Rooting Challenges:** *Corymbia citriodora* 'Scentuous' can be difficult to propagate from seed or cuttings. Grafting bypasses these challenges by utilizing a well-established rootstock.

## **The Grafting Process:**

Grafting is a specialized technique typically performed by experienced nursery professionals. Here's a simplified overview of the steps involved:

1. **Selection:** The rootstock is carefully chosen, often a seedling from a closely related *Corymbia* species known for its strong root system.
2. **Preparation:** Both the scion (*Corymbia citriodora* 'Scentuous') and rootstock are meticulously prepared with clean cuts to their vascular tissues.
3. **Joining:** The scion and rootstock are then joined precisely, ensuring their vascular systems are aligned.
4. **Securing & Aftercare:** The graft is securely fastened, and the newly grafted plant receives proper care to promote successful healing and growth.

## **Obtaining Your 'Scentuous' Corymbia:**

While the grafting process itself is typically done by professionals, you can enjoy the beauty of *Corymbia citriodora* 'Scentuous' in your garden by purchasing a grafted tree from a reputable nursery. Look for trees that are healthy and have a

well-developed root system.

### **Conclusion:**

Grafting allows us to cultivate and enjoy the delightful *Corymbia citriodora* 'Scentuous' in our gardens. By understanding this fascinating technique, you can appreciate the skilled work behind these fragrant dwarf trees. So, the next time you encounter a 'Scentuous' *Corymbia*, take a moment to admire the invisible graft that allows this little piece of lemon-scented paradise to thrive.