



Letters to the Editor should be sent to
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British eucalyptus

Sir, Ben Webster's article on eucalyptus ("Estate warms to wizard trees of Oz", Jun 30) is well timed as it coincides with Defra's consultation on the English tree strategy, which will set the direction of forestry policy in England for the foreseeable future. With many of our productive native trees under threat from pests and disease, eucalyptus is one of a number of alternative productive species which, planted in the right place, can be a valued component of our treescape. We have learnt to embrace sycamore and sweet chestnut as "honorary" natives. We must now look to a wider palette of species to help to contribute to the ecological resilience and financial sustainability of our woods. There is no evidence that eucalyptus is invasive in the UK: ash is a much more effective coloniser of open space.

Simon Lloyd
 CEO, Royal Forestry Society