



# CHOOSING A TREE FOR YOUR PROPERTY

**Trees play an important role in enhancing our quality of life in the urban environment. Not only are trees visually pleasing but they also offer social, environmental and economic benefits throughout their lifetime.**

When choosing a tree for your property you should first determine what the key function of the tree is. Native, evergreen, deciduous, ornamental and fruit trees will all provide varying functions to the owner.

Once the key function of the tree has been decided, specific characteristics of the tree and any particular constraints of the location should be considered including:

- Height/spread of tree and available space to accommodate upon maturity
- Proximity to adjacent properties and underground services (i.e. drainage)
- Habit of the tree including root systems, leaf/fruit drop and evergreen/deciduous
- Water, fertiliser and maintenance requirements of tree

## PLANTING YOUR TREE

### Preparing the soil

Dig a hole twice the size of the container your tree comes in. Turn over the soil and add amendments such as compost and/or manures to improve the soil structure and aid in moisture retention.

### Staking

Staking your tree is important as it assists in straightening young tree trunks, protects stems and branches from wind damage and stops movement that may damage new roots just forming.

Stakes are best placed in position within the hole before planting to avoid root damage. Flexible tie material such as commercial tree tie or an old nylon stocking is recommended and should be inspected regularly and adjusted to prevent damage to the trunk.

### Removing the container

Prior to planting, make sure that your tree has been well watered in its container to ensure the root ball does not crumble or break away which may result in damage to the root system. Carefully remove your tree from the container – plastic tree bags can be cut off and plants in solid containers can be turned on their side and the container gently removed.

As a general rule do not break up the root ball - gently straighten out any roots that have obviously been spiralling around the container taking care not to disturb the root ball.

### Planting

Carefully place your tree in the hole and fill in with the pre-prepared soil, making sure the top of the root ball is no more than 3cm below the surface of your garden soil. Gently compact the soil around the tree.

### Feeding

Avoid excessive feeding at planting time. Fertilisers or manures can be incorporated into the soil during soil preparation however, the safest general rule is to scatter two handfuls of a slow release fertiliser on top of the soil after planting. Liquid foliar feeding during planting and establishment of your tree is also beneficial.



### Watering

Water your tree thoroughly after planting to ensure that moisture has penetrated the full depth of the root ball. Initial watering will also aid in settling the soil around your tree and carry fertiliser to the roots. It is also recommended to add a soil wetting agent at this stage to assist in water penetration.

Regular thorough soakings of your tree are vital during dry weather to encourage the roots to grow deep. Frequency of watering will vary depending on the specific requirements of your chosen tree species.

### Mulching

Mulching your tree will assist in soil moisture retention, keeping the soil and roots at an even temperature and suppress weed growth around your tree. Apply mulch around your tree approximately 7-10cm thick but take care to ensure the mulch is pulled away from the base of the trunk.

## SUITABLE TREES FOR YOUR PROPERTY

The below table provides a list of trees suitable for planting within your property depending on your particular location and available space. In addition to the trees listed below, there are a large number of suitable fruit and nut trees including dwarf trees and double grafted trees to make the most of a small space.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Native/Exotic	Height (m)	Width (m)	Deciduous/Evergreen
<i>Agonis flexuosa</i>	WA Weeping Peppermint	Native	10	10	Evergreen
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Irish Strawberry Tree	Exotic	5	3	Evergreen
<i>Banksia attenuata</i>	Slender Banksia	Native	10	4	Evergreen
<i>Banksia grandis</i>	Bull Banksia	Native	10	5	Evergreen
<i>Banksia menziesii</i>	Firewood Banksia	Native	7	7	Evergreen
<i>Bauhinia purpurea</i>	Orchid Tree	Exotic	7	4	Semi-deciduous
<i>Cassia fistula</i>	Golden Shower Tree	Exotic	8	4	Semi-deciduous
<i>Celtis mississippiensis</i>	Hackberry	Exotic	15	8	Deciduous
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Carob (sterile)	Exotic	15	8	Evergreen
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas Tree	Exotic	6	4	Deciduous
<i>Corymbia ficifolia</i>	Red Flowering Gum	Native	10	5	Evergreen
<i>Delonix regia</i>	Poinciana	Exotic	8	6	Semi-deciduous
<i>Eucalyptus caesia</i>	Gungurru	Native	8	3	Evergreen
<i>Eucalyptus erythrocorys</i>	Red Capped Gum	Native	8	4	Evergreen
<i>Eucalyptus forrestiana</i>	Fuchsia Mallee	Native	5	3	Evergreen
<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i> 'Rosea'	Pink Flowering Gum	Native	15	6	Evergreen
<i>Eucalyptus torquata</i>	Coral Gum	Native	6	4	Evergreen
<i>Gleditsia tricanthos</i>	Honey Locust	Exotic	10	8	Deciduous
<i>Hibiscus tiliaceus</i>	Cottonwood Hibiscus	Native	8	5	Evergreen
<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>	Native Frangipani	Native	7	4	Evergreen
<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	Jacaranda	Exotic	10	8	Deciduous
<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	Crepe Myrtle	Exotic	5	3	Deciduous
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	Magnolia	Exotic	25	10	Evergreen
<i>Melaleuca linariifolia</i>	Snow in Summer	Native	10	6	Evergreen
<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>	Broad Leaved Paperbark	Native	10	4	Evergreen
<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>	NZ Christmas Tree	Exotic	12	5	Evergreen
<i>Michelia alba</i>	Paklan	Exotic	6	4	Evergreen
<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	Purple Leaved Plum	Exotic	5	3	Deciduous
<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	Bradford Pear	Exotic	10	5	Deciduous
<i>Sapium sebiferum</i>	Chinese Tallow	Exotic	8	6	Deciduous
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	Chinese Elm	Exotic	10	8	Deciduous

