

# Choosing a Tree

The Town receives numerous enquiries from residents about neighbouring trees dropping unwanted leaves and branches on to their property, so we've developed these guidelines to help you select the best possible tree species for your garden.

First of all, please don't plant close to the adjoining property line where very few trees can grow to their natural height and form without encroaching on neighbouring property. If you do plant too close, your neighbour will have to continually prune and clean up.

Please be a responsible community member and consider the long-term effects of the tree species selected, the planting position and the future effects on the neighbourhood. Simple planning will ensure your new tree is not a constant nuisance but a valuable asset to you, your neighbourhood and the environment.

Using our checklist below and then picking a suitable tree from our chart should prevent problems arising in the future.

And consider planting native tree species which are more tolerant of dry weather conditions than some of the introduced exotic tree species. That way you'll be waterwise and environmentally friendly – and have a happy tree!

## Checklist

- ❖ Available space to accommodate the tree upon reaching maturity.
- ❖ Proximity to adjacent neighbour's property (overhanging branches, limbs and so on).
- ❖ Effects on the surrounding residents.
- ❖ Height and spread of the tree.
- ❖ Habit of the root system.
- ❖ Shade aspect.
- ❖ Evergreen or deciduous.
- ❖ Location of underground services.
- ❖ Food and shelter for wild life.
- ❖ Water usage.

# Planting your Tree or Shrub

## 1. Selection

Any amount of skill in planting and aftercare is not always followed by success. Choosing the correct plant for your locality is the first important step. Decide whether you need plants tolerant of exposure to sun, wind, salt (in coastal areas) or frost, and the soil texture and drainage in your garden, then use our checklist. Now you are ready to use our chart and pick a suitable plant.

## 2. Soil Preparation

Mix peat moss, animal manures/blood & bone or compost with the soil to improve texture. Peat moss added to light sandy soil has a cooling effect, provides much-needed fibre, and improves soil structure and moisture retention.

## 3. Drainage

'Wet feet' is one of the main causes of tree/root failure, but is not usually a concern in our sandy soil.

## 4. Pre-Soaking is important

To avoid the root ball from crumbling and breaking away, ensure that the soil in the bag or pot is moist. This will avoid any damage to the root system.

## 5. Remove Container

Plastic bags or pots must be removed prior to planting with minimal disturbance of the root ball. Plastic bags are easily cut away with scissors or a knife (remember to always cut away from your body). Plants in solid containers can be turned on their side and the container gently tapped.

## 6. Don't disturb the roots

Some plants don't mind, but as a general rule when planting, do not break up the root ball or disturb the roots of any bagged or container-grown plant, apart from removing containers.

Gently straighten out any roots that obviously have been spiralling around the container, but disturb as little as possible unless labelling instructs otherwise.

## 7. Staking

Staking is important and helps in three ways: it aids in straightening young tree trunks; it protects stems and branches from wind damage; and it stops the movement that breaks off new roots just forming.

Stakes are best placed in position before planting to prevent root damage. Some form of flexible tie material is recommended; old nylon stockings are ideal. Inspect regularly and adjust to prevent trunk damage.

Remove labels from main stems and either replace on a lower twig or on the stake, or date and store for future reference.

## 8. Planting

It is wrong to plant too deeply. The top of the root ball must be no more than 3cm below the surface of your garden soil.

Plant deciduous species such as fruit trees in their dormant state at the same level as they have been in the nursery, which is clearly indicated by soil marks on the stem. Tread soil in firmly around roots.

## 9. Feeding

Avoid excessive feeding at planting time. While fertiliser could be incorporated into the soil before planting, the safest general rule is to scatter two handfuls of a balanced fertiliser on top of the soil after planting, or add a slow release fertiliser to the soil. By the time this reaches the roots, it will be in soluble form and easily taken up by the plant.

Liquid foliar feeding at planting time is also very beneficial.

## 10. Watering

Water each plant thoroughly after planting, making certain that moisture has penetrated to the full depth of the root ball during dry weather. Initial watering will settle the soil around your plants and carry fertiliser to the roots.

Regular thorough soakings are vital during continuing dry weather. Light surface hosing is of little value when soil conditions are dry.

## 11. Mulching

Mulching with a 6cm to 7cm layer of peat moss or mulch around your plants will act as an insulator, prevent evaporation of moisture, and keep roots at an even temperature. Mulching also controls weed growth – and makes your garden look good too. Be sure to soak the ground before mulching, and thoroughly moisten after applying.

## 12. Pruning

Apart from any obvious shaping, evergreens require no pruning at planting time.

Flowering shrubs and trees that bloom on current season's growth need cutting back by at least one third immediately after flowering. This will encourage, strong, healthy, compact growth and maximum bloom next year.



# Suitable trees for planting on suburban properties

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height (m)	Spread (m)	Evergreen (e) Deciduous (d) Semi decid. (sd)	Water Usage – Low (L) Mod (M) High (H)	Bird Attracting (ba)	Native (n) Exotic Species (es)
Agonis flexuosa	WA Weeping Peppermint	10	6	e	L	ba	ns
Allocasuarina torulosa	Forrest She-oak	10	6	e	L	–	ns
Arbutus unedo	Irish Strawberry Tree	5	3	e	L	ba	es
Banksia coccinea	Scarlet Banksia	3	1.5	e	L	ba	ns
Banksia grandis	Bull Banksia	10	5	e	L	ba	ns
Banksia prionotes	Acorn Banksia	6	4	e	L	ba	ns
Banksia serrata	Saw Banksia	9	4	e	L	ba	ns
Bauhinia purpurea	Hong Kong Orchid Tree	7	4	sd	L	ba	es
Betula pendula	Silver Birch	8	5	d	H	–	es
Brachychiton acerifolius	Illawarra Flame Tree	10	8	d	L	ba	ns
Buddleja davidii	Butterfly Bush	3	2	e	L	ba	es
Butia capitata	Jelly Palm	5	3	e	H		es
Callistemon viminalis	Weeping Bottlebrush	6	4	e	L	ba	ns
Citrus sinensis	Orange Tree	6	3	e	H	ba	es
Delonix regia	Poinciana	10	5	d	M	ba	es
Dombeya natalensis	Natal Wedding Bush	6	4	e	L	ba	es
Duranta repens	Golden Dewdrop	2.5	2.5	e	L	–	es
Eucalyptus caesia	Gungurru	8	3	e	L	ba	ns
Eucalyptus cinerea	Argyle Apple	12	6	e	L	ba	ns
Eucalyptus erythrocorys	Red Capped Gum	10	6	e	L	ba	ns
Eucalyptus ficifolia	WA Red Flowering Gum	10	5	e	L	ba	ns
Eucalyptus forrestiana	Fuchsia Mallee	5	3	e	L	ba	ns
Eucalyptus leucoxydon Rosea	Pink/Red Flowering Gum	10	6	e	L	ba	ns
Eucalyptus macrocarpa	Rose Of The West	5	3	e	L	ba	ns
Eucalyptus torquata	Coral/Coolgardie Gum	6	4	e	L	ba	ns
Feijoa sellowiana	Pineapple Guava	4	2	e	M	ba	es (NZ)
Fraxinus species	Ash	10	8	d	M	–	es
Grevillea banksii	Red Silky Oak	5	3	e	L	ba	ns
Hakea laurina	Pin Cushion Hakea	5	3	e	L	ba	ns
Howea forsteriana	Kentia Palm	9	3	e	H		es
Hymenosporum flavum	Native Frangipani	6	5	e	M	ba	ns
Jacaranda mimosaeifolia	Jacaranda	10	10	d	M	ba	es
Lagerstroemia indica	Crepe Myrtle	8	5	d	M	–	es
Melaleuca armillaris	Giant Honey Myrtle	5	7	e	L	ba	ns
Melaleuca quinquinervia	Broad Leafed Paper Bark	10	4	e	L	ba	ns
Metrosideros excelsia	NZ Christmas Tree	12	5	e	L	ba	es (NZ)
Olea europaea	Common Olive	9	5	e	M	ba	es
Paulownia	Princess Tree	12	6	d	M	ba	es
Prunus cerasifera	Purple Leaved Plum	5	3	d	L	ba	es
Pyrus communis	Common Pear Tree	10	5	d	H	ba	es
Pyrus ussuriensis	Manchurian Pear Tree	10	5	d	M	ba	es
Sapium sebiferum	Chinese Tallow	8	8	d	M	–	es
Tipuana tipu	Pride of Bolivia	15	6	d	M	ba	es
Ulmus parvifolia	Chinese Elm	10	5	d	M	ba	es

## Your Legal Rights

If you are involved in a dispute with your neighbour over a tree encroaching on your property, Legal Aid have produced a brochure which may be of help. It's called "Encroaching Roots and Branches – Know Your Rights" and it's available from the Town of Vincent. The Town may intervene only if the tree is an immediate danger to either people or property.

A free, confidential mediation service to help resolve differences between Vincent residents has also been introduced by the Town in conjunction with the Citizens Advice Bureau. A brochure explaining the process is available from the Town.

Produced and distributed by the Town of Vincent  
as a service to ratepayers.

For further information please contact:



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Printed on 100% recycled stock

December 2001



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# Choosing a Tree for your Property

AND

## HELPFUL HINTS ABOUT PLANTING

PEOPLE WITH SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS CAN ASK  
TO HAVE THIS BROCHURE PROVIDED IN BRAILLE,  
A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH, LARGE PRINT,  
ON COMPUTER DISK OR AUDIOTAPE.