



## PLANTING TREES FOR THE FUTURE

It is generally agreed that planting trees is an important way we can care for the environment.

- Trees provide welcome shade, modifying our harsh climate.
- They maintain clean, oxygen rich air, counteracting the polluting effect of cars, fires and industry.
- Birds and animals visit our gardens for the food and shelter they find in trees.

## THE FRAMEWORK OF THE GARDEN

As trees form the framework of your garden, and mistakes are difficult and costly to correct, careful choice is essential! Consider these factors:

- Avoid planting trees which drop limbs near buildings and car parking areas.
- Say no to trees with poisonous berries or other parts, especially if you have small children visit your garden.
- Falling leaves can cause a fire hazard, litter the pool and block the gutters. Plant deciduous or large gum trees away from the house.
- Some Eucalypts grow to over 20 metres and are unsuitable for suburban blocks. The SEC may require you to prune to control the height near power lines.
- Large trees may produce too much shade for lawn and other garden plants.
- Some tree roots are invasive and may damage underground pipes, or lift paving.
- If planting near your boundary, check with your neighbours to avoid future misunderstandings!
- Soil type – consider these factors: clay or sand, water availability and wind strength will affect tree growth. Choose species to suit your conditions.
- Choose the shape of the tree to suit. You may prefer a wide crown, a narrow tall tree, a weeping tree, or perhaps low branching.

## SUCCESSFUL PLANTING

Follow these steps to guarantee successful tree planting:

1. After digging a hole twice the pot's depth in sand or twice the width in clay soils, incorporate well rotted compost or organic matter into the hole. This aids water retention in sandy soils and improves the drainage in clay.
2. Add slow release plant food to the hole, either granulated or tablet, to promote faster growth.
3. Place the plant in the hole at the same level as the soil surface. A stake may be placed near the tree, using loose ties. The use of stakes is not essential, but in windy spots may help your tree settle in. Use good soil to backfill the hole. In sandy soils, create a saucer around the plant to direct water to the plant.
4. Trickle water slowly into the hole while planting. Heavy stamping is not recommended as it compacts the soil and damages small roots. The soil around the new tree should be thoroughly wet.
5. If planting in winter, the rain will water the plant for you. Summer planting requires daily watering for a month, twice weekly thereafter, unless very hot, when watering needs to be increased.
6. Remove weeds, either by hand or using a weedicide containing glyphosate. Weeds compete with the young tree for food and water, and thus slow the tree's growth.
7. Mulch around the base of the tree to conserve moisture and reduce weed growth. Keep the mulch at least 5cms from the trunk of the tree.



### **Eucalyptus leucoxylon rosea**

Bird attracting flowers, from dark pink to white, adorn this 4 to 6 metres tree, during autumn to late winter. A pale, smooth barked trunk supports a canopy of narrow leaves. It grows in all soils, has low water requirements and is often used by shires for street planting. Highly recommended.

### **Eucalyptus vestita (coolibah tree)**

The coolibah tree is a small inland tree, found in low rainfall areas. Pale green weeping leaves crown a smooth white trunk, providing light dappled shade. Small white flowers grace the tree in early winter. Loamy soils are preferred. Relatively slow growing, the coolibah may reach 5 metres in 10 years. This tree always draws attention!

### **Eucalyptus macrandra (long-flowered marlock)**

An outstanding small mallee to 5m high, ideal for the home garden. Large clusters of lemon-yellow flowers in summer attract the birds. Glossy leaves and attractive bark add to the appeal. This low-branching tree is great for climbing. Guaranteed to please!

### **Agonis flexuosa (WA willow peppermint)**

Drooping willow-like foliage on a single stemmed tree makes this specimen a shady one. *Agonis flexuosa* is drought tolerant, hardy and moderately fast growing to 6m, without the invasive root system of the true willow. Tiny white flowers clothe the branches during spring and summer. The narrow leaves have an aromatic fragrance when young and growing fast. The variegated form is spectacular, as is the dark foliage variation *Agonis After Dark*. An attractive dwarf variety is available at most nurseries. Ornamental and easy to grow.

### **Banksia prionotes (Orange Banksia)**

This *Banksia* reaches 6 metres, and displays orange 'acorn' flowers January through to July. It grows well in all drained soils and prefers low water and fertiliser. Serrated leaves and irregular growth make this plant an attractive feature in the garden. A classic Australian tree, the orange banksia will enhance your native garden.

### **Eucalyptus caesia (Silver Princess or Gungurru)**

An unusual weeping tree to 5m, the *Eucalyptus caesia* has pink flowers in winter and powdery bark. The birds love this tree. Easy to grow in all soils. Plant this beauty in groups for extra appeal.

### **Acacia spectabilis (Mudgee or Glory Wattle)**

Growing between 3 and 5 metres, this *Acacia* may easily be pruned to form a shapely small tree for the home garden. A silvery-grey trunk, grey-green ferny foliage and perfumed yellow flowers make this tree dramatic, especially at flowering time in late winter. Enjoy its ten year lifespan. Seedlings appear to replace the mother tree. Drought hardy, fast growing and reliable.

### **Hymenosporum flavum (Native Frangipani)**

In cultivation, the Native Frangipani is a slender, small and upright tree to 8 metres, holding its branches in attractive layers. Glossy green leaves and scented gold flowers in early summer are features of this tree. Strong wind can cause branches to fall, so a sheltered position is favoured. Some summer watering is needed for vigorous growth and yearly fertiliser benefits this rain forest tree. Due to its strong roots, Native Frangipani is best planted away from structures. Allow at least 6 metres.

### **OTHER SUITABLE SMALL TREES**

- *Acacia coriacea*, 5m+
- *Acacia fimbriata*, 5m+
- *Acacia Pendula*, 5m
- *Banksia menziesii*, 6m+
- *Callistemon salignus*, 5m
- *Callistemon viminalis*, 5m
- *Callitris preisii*, 5m
- *Eucalyptus ficifolia*, 6m
- *Eucalyptus forrestiana*, 3m+
- *Eucalyptus platypus*, 4m
- *Eucalyptus torquata*, 6m
- *Grevillea banksii*, 3m
- *Hakea laurina*, 4m
- *Melaleuca linarifolia*, 5m+