

Tree planting guidelines

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Trees on private property

Views

- Consider the location of trees in relation to views from windows, balconies and other areas, not only when planted but also at maturity.

Shade

- Consider the path of the sun and how the tree will shade different areas at different times of the day, especially when the tree reaches maturity.

Leaf Drop

- All trees drop leaves; this is a part of the life cycle of a healthy tree and should not be seen as a negative thing. Deciduous trees drop all of their leaves in one short period during autumn, while evergreen trees drop the same amount of leaves across the year but maintain leaves on the tree at all times.
- Consider what you are looking for in terms of these characteristics and talk to your local nursery or garden centre for more information.
- Consider how leaf drop will impact your property, especially the placement of gutters and drains.

Proximity of Trees to Structures

- Consider the expected size and width of the tree at maturity and ensure that the location is large enough to accommodate it.

Access to Sun

- Ensure that the location will receive enough sun to allow the particular species of tree to grow in a healthy manner.

Prevailing Wind

- Consider the prevailing wind direction and whether this will impact the growth of the tree.

Trees on the street verge

Street Verge Infrastructure

- Provide a minimum 2m setback from the edge of any crossover or driveway
- Provide a minimum 0.5m setback from footpaths.
- Where there is no existing footpath, a clear thoroughfare with a minimum width of 2m immediately adjacent to the kerb must be kept.

- Provide a minimum 1m setback from power poles and all other above ground street verge infrastructure.

Underground Services

- You must lodge an enquiry to '*Dial Before You Dig*', before you dig (excavate) in the street verge (Road Reserve - Nature Strip), so you are aware of and can avoid any underground services that may be present in the street verge. The recommendations and advice of service providers **MUST** be followed.
- Trees must be planted 2.7m from your property boundary towards the road, this will help avoid conflict with underground services, unless you receive permission from the City of Bayswater or a utility service provider to plant elsewhere.

Overhead Powerlines

- Choose a species of tree that has an approximate maximum tree height of 5m at maturity when planting beneath overhead powerlines.

Choosing a tree

Tree Height

- Consider the expected height of the tree species at maturity and whether the height is compatible with your property size and dwelling
- Tall trees are more beneficial in providing shade and can provide your property with protection from sun and wind damage.

Canopy and Branch Spread

- Consider the expected canopy spread of the tree species at maturity and whether the spread is compatible with other structures on your property.

Root Spread and Depth

- Roots of trees will spread to lengths considerably greater than the size of the canopy.
- Trees typically send a few anchoring roots deep into the soil, so make sure the bottom of your planting hole is not hard and compacted.

Transporting trees

1. Never lift the tree by its trunk, always pick it up by the pot or handles on the bag.
2. Place the tree in the back of a utility vehicle or trailer and lay it on its side, never stand it up when driving.
3. Ensure the tree is secure around the pot so it does not roll around.
4. Ideally the tree should be covered with a tarpaulin or shade cloth whilst the vehicle is moving to prevent wind damage when driving at speeds above 50km/h.

Planting

1. Dig a hole for the tree approximately 1.5 - 2 times the size of the root ball to ensure that the tree has uncompacted soil to grow new roots into quickly and easily.
 - Do NOT dig the hole any deeper than 0.5m to reduce the risk of hitting underground services.
 - Dig the hole carefully so that if there are any underground services present, the damage to them will be minimal and the risk to your safety will be reduced.
2. A good quality landscape mix can be used to fill in around the tree and can be mixed with the soil dug out from the hole to improve its quality. If you are planting a native tree, ensure you use a native plant soil mix as it usually has a native plant fertiliser and is free draining. If you have impoverished sands, it is advisable to mix landscape mix or compost into the soil across an area 3 to 4 times the size of the root ball. If your soils are mostly clay, it is advisable to add Gypsum, or similar, to the bottom of the planting hole to help break up the clay, allowing for better root penetration.
3. Back fill the bottom of the hole with loose soil mix to a level that when the tree is placed in the hole, the top of the root ball is level with the surrounding ground level.
4. Take the tree out of the pot gently and inspect for roots that may be circling at the bottom, these can be cut where they begin to circle with a pair of sharp, clean secateurs.
5. Place the tree in the hole.
6. Gently back fill the soil around the root ball, use a hose to soak the soil around the tree to help remove any air pockets.
7. Finish filling the hole to the top of the root ball, leaving 100mm of depth for mulch. Ensure that there are no air pockets left. Dispose of the remaining soil; do not pile it up around the trunk of the tree.
8. Place mulch around the tree to a depth of 100mm. Again, do not pile it up around the trunk of the tree. Ensure there is a space of at least 2 fingers width clear from the trunk.
9. Only use stakes if the tree is very unstable. Ideally the tree should be encouraged to be self-supporting without the use of stakes. If you do need to use stakes, use two with a soft tree tie and tie it loosely. Do not tie your tree tightly as this will not let it develop a strong trunk in the wind.

Maintenance

Watering

- In summer, your tree will generally need at least 2 to 3 buckets of water every second day.
- #### Pruning
- Generally, trees do not require much pruning. Leaving all of the lower branches on a tree will help it to develop a very strong trunk, so avoid removing these where you can.
 - Pruning really only needs to happen if the tree starts to form two leaders or if there is damage, disease or the crossing of branches.
 - Once the tree is too large to be pruned with secateurs or a small saw, it is recommended to engage the services of a qualified Arborist to ensure appropriate pruning is undertaken.

Further advice

- For more advice, please contact your local nursery or garden centre or contact a qualified Arborist.
- The City of Bayswater's website has some useful information at:
<http://www.bayswater.wa.gov.au/trees>.
- For more advice on where underground services should be located, search the internet for: 'utility providers code of practice for Western Australia'
- Dial Before You Dig <https://www.1100.com.au>