

Selecting the right tree

Perth-Peel region



Trees and shrubs are an important part of our built environment, however if they're not carefully chosen they may cause problems below ground.

The roots of some trees and shrubs can damage sewer pipes and underground services. Trees and shrubs rely on their roots to find moisture and nutrients. Your property's sewer pipes can be an attractive moisture source.

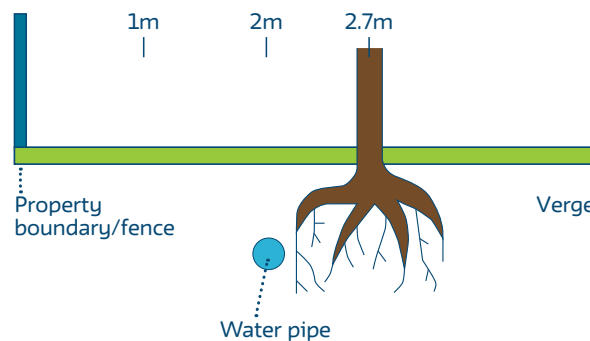
A small hairline fracture in a pipe is all a root needs to get in. Once inside the pipe the root can grow quickly, causing a reduction in flow and potentially a complete blockage. Often complete sections of pipe need to be replaced which can be expensive.

Homes over 15 years old are particularly at risk as they are less likely to have PVC sewerage pipes, which aren't as prone to leakage and tree root damage.

Finding the right tree and location

To help you in choosing the most appropriate tree or shrub to plant at your property we have put together a list of some waterwise options. When making your choice consider waterwise tree species that suits the purpose of the area and consider ongoing maintenance requirements. (e.g. deciduous trees will require more maintenance to collect leaves when they fall to keep them out of stormwater drains).

Waterwise trees, once established in improved soil, will need watering no more than once to twice a week. Many of these trees will flourish over the long, hot summer months with only the bare minimum of water. Trees that are waterwise have been labelled in the following tables. To learn more about the best waterwise plants for your garden visit our waterwise plant search.



For authorities planting in the verge, remember verges serve as a corridor for utilities with a number of water, electrical, gas and telecommunication pipes located underground within them. All trees must be planted in accordance with the Utilities Providers Code of Practice Guide, which states that trees must be planted 2.7m from the property boundary line and minimum of 0.5m from water assets. For local governments planting medium and large street trees, please contact us in regards to your annual tree plans to ensure the longevity of the tree and to minimise the possibility of interruption to local residents' water supplies. Any damage to, or interference with, a Water Corporation underground asset may result in Water Corporation imposing fines or seeking damages for any repair.

Waterwise tree list

These lists are intended to be used as a guide to assist you in the planting of trees or shrubs on your property. As stated above in 'Finding the right tree and right location', please take care when planting any trees and shrubs as you may be liable to pay a fine or the costs of repair if there is any property damage to an underground asset as a result. The below tree list has been scored on its water rating and level of root invasiveness by specialist tree consultants. For any enquires on the below tree list, please contact us at wepartnerships@watercorporation.com.au

Water rating:

- 1 - once established requires watering once a week
- 2 - once established requires watering twice a week

Root invasiveness:

Low - The species is not recognised for displaying vigorous root development and is not commonly associated with damage to pipes.

Moderate - The species may be recognised for causing some damage to pipes. Tree species are more likely to originate in more temperate climates than the Perth region and to have a higher requirement for water.

High - These species are recognised more widely for the vigour of their root development. Trees within this category have not generally been recommended for planting near pipes and may be included within a list of trees considered unsuitable for verge or urban garden planting.

Suitable for planting in verges and urban gardens

Tree size	Waterwise drop rating	Common name	Botanical Name	Origin	Deciduous or evergreen	Root invasiveness
Small (4 - 8m)	1	Bell Fruited Mallee	<i>Eucalyptus preissiana</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	1	Bull Banksia	<i>Banksia grandis</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	2	Chinese Pistachio	<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	Exotic	Deciduous	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	2	Chinese Tallow	<i>Triadica sebifera</i>	Exotic	Deciduous	Moderate
Small (4 - 8m)	2	Coast Banksia	<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>	Aust. Native	Evergreen	Moderate
Small (4 - 8m)	1	Coastal Moort	<i>Eucalyptus utilis</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	1	Coral Gum	<i>Eucalyptus torquata</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	2	Cottonwood Hibiscus	<i>Hibiscus tileaceus</i>	Aust. Native	Evergreen	Moderate
Small (4 - 8m)	2	Dawson River Weeper	<i>Callistemon 'Dawson River'</i>	Aust. Native	Evergreen	Moderate
Small (4 - 8m)	1	Dwarf Yellow Bloodwood	<i>Corymbia eximia 'Nana'</i>	Aust. Native	Evergreen	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	1	Euky Dwarf	<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon sub species 'Euky Dwarf'</i>	Aust. Native	Evergreen	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	2	Evergreen Ash	<i>Fraxinus griffithii</i>	Exotic	Deciduous	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	1	Firewood Banksia	<i>Banksia menziesii</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	1	Fremantle Mallee	<i>Eucalyptus foecunda</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	1	Fuchsia Mallee	<i>Eucalyptus forrestiana</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	2	Golden Shower tree	<i>Cassia fistula</i>	Exotic	Deciduous	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	1	Holly Leaved Banksia	<i>Banksia ilicifolia</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	1	Hybrid Coral Gum	<i>Eucalyptus 'Torwood'</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	2	Kings Park Special	<i>Callistemon 'Kings Park Special'</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate
Small (4 - 8m)	1	Large Fruited Mallee	<i>Eucalyptus youngiana</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	2	Manchurian Pear	<i>Pyrus ussuriensis</i>	Exotic	Deciduous	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	1	Mottlecak	<i>Eucalyptus macrocarpa</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	2	NZ Christmas Bush	<i>Metrosideros thomasi</i>	Exotic	Evergreen	Moderate
Small (4 - 8m)	1	Olive	<i>Olea europaea</i>	Exotic	Evergreen	Moderate
Small (4 - 8m)	1	Orange Banksia	<i>Banksia prionotes</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	2	Ornamental Pears	<i>Pyrus calleryana varieties</i>	Exotic	Deciduous	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	2	Ornamental Plum	<i>Prunus blicreana varieties</i>	Exotic	Deciduous	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	1	Pin-Cushion Hakea	<i>Hakea laurina</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	2	Purple leafed Ornamental Plum	<i>Prunus cerasifera varieties</i>	Exotic	Deciduous	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	1	Red Flowered Mallee	<i>Eucalyptus erythronema</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	1	Redheart Moit	<i>Eucalyptus decipiens</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	1	River Yate	<i>Eucalyptus macrandra</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	1	SA Yellow Gum	<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon sub species megalocarpa</i>	Aust. Native	Evergreen	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	1	Silver Mallee	<i>Eucalyptus crucis</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	2	Snow-in-Summer	<i>Melaleuca linariifolia</i>	Aust. Native	Evergreen	Moderate
Small (4 - 8m)	1	Strickland's Gum	<i>Eucalyptus stricklandii</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	2	Swamp Banksia	<i>Banksia littoralis</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	2	Swamp Paperbark	<i>Melaleuca raphiophylla</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate
Small (4 - 8m)	1	Tallerack	<i>Eucalyptus pleurocarpa</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	2	Water Gum	<i>Tristaniopsis laurina</i>	Aust. Native	Evergreen	Moderate

Tree size	Waterwise drop rating	Common name	Botanical Name	Origin	Deciduous or evergreen	Root invasiveness
Small (4 - 8m)	1	Webster's Mallee	<i>Eucalyptus websteriana</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	1	Western Coolabah	<i>Eucalyptus victrix</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low
Small (4 - 8m)	2	Western Tea Myrtle	<i>Melaleuca nesophila</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate
Medium (8 - 16m)	1	Argyle Apple	<i>Eucalyptus cinerea</i>	Aust. Native	Evergreen	Low
Medium (8 - 16m)	1	Bald Island Marlock	<i>Eucalyptus conferruminata</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low
Medium (8 - 16m)	2	Butterfly Tree / Orchid tree	<i>Bauhinia sp.</i>	Exotic	Deciduous	Low
Medium (8 - 16m)	1	Carob	<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Exotic	Evergreen	Low
Medium (8 - 16m)	1	Coastal Blackbutt	<i>Eucalyptus todtiana</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low
Medium (8 - 16m)	1	Darling Range Ghost Gum	<i>Eucalyptus laeliae</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low
Medium (8 - 16m)	2	Irish Strawberry Tree	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Exotic	Evergreen	Moderate
Medium (8 - 16m)	2	Jacaranda	<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	Exotic	Deciduous	Moderate
Medium (8 - 16m)	2	Japanese Elm	<i>Zelkova serrata 'Green Vase'</i>	Exotic	Deciduous	Moderate
Medium (8 - 16m)	1	Kurrajong	<i>Brachychiton populneus</i>	Aust. Native	Evergreen	Low
Medium (8 - 16m)	1	Lacebark Kurrajong	<i>Brachychiton discolor</i>	Aust. Native	Deciduous	Low
Medium (8 - 16m)	2	Macadamia	<i>Macadamia integrifolia</i>	Exotic	Evergreen	Moderate
Medium (8 - 16m)	2	NZ Christmas Tree	<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>	Exotic	Evergreen	Moderate
Medium (8 - 16m)	2	Oriental Plane Tree	<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Exotic	Deciduous	Moderate
Medium (8 - 16m)	1	Port Lincoln Gum	<i>Eucalyptus lansdowneana</i>	Aust. Native	Evergreen	Low
Medium (8 - 16m)	2	Red Flowering Broadleaved Paperbark	<i>Melaleuca viridiflora</i>	Aust. Native	Evergreen	Low
Medium (8 - 16m)	1	Red Flowering Gum	<i>Corymbia ficifolia</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low
Medium (8 - 16m)	1	Rottnest island Cypress	<i>Callitris preissii</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low
Medium (8 - 16m)	1	Rottnest Island Tea-Tree	<i>Melaleuca lanceolata</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate
Medium (8 - 16m)	2	Rough Barked Apple Gum	<i>Angophora floribunda</i>	Aust. Native	Evergreen	Low
Medium (8 - 16m)	1	Salmon White Gum	<i>Eucalyptus lane-poolei</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low
Medium (8 - 16m)	2	Saltwater Paperbark	<i>Melaleuca cuticularis</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate
Medium (8 - 16m)	1	Stout Paperbark	<i>Melaleuca preissiana</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate
Medium (8 - 16m)	2	Swamp Mallet	<i>Eucalyptus spathulata</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate
Medium (8 - 16m)	1	Swamp Sheoak	<i>Casuarina obesa</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate
Medium (8 - 16m)	1	Tuckeroo	<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>	Aust. Native	Evergreen	Moderate
Medium (8 - 16m)	2	Weeping bottlebrush	<i>Callistemon viminalis</i>	Aust. Native	Evergreen	Moderate
Medium (8 - 16m)	2	Weeping Broadleaved Paperbark	<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate
Medium (8 - 16m)	1	Wild Plum / Kaffir Plum	<i>Harpephyllum caffrum</i>	Exotic	Evergreen	Moderate
Medium (8 - 16m)	1	Wilga/Australian Willow	<i>Geijera parviflora</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate
Medium (8 - 16m)	1	Willow Bottlebrush	<i>Callistemon salignus</i>	Aust. Native	Evergreen	Moderate
Medium (8 - 16m)	1	Yellow Gum	<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon 'Rosea'</i>	Aust. Native	Evergreen	Moderate

Suitable for planting in public open space and on large properties

Tree size	Waterwise drop rating	Common name	Botanical Name	Origin	Deciduous or evergreen	Root invasiveness
Medium (8 - 16m)	1	Dwarf Sugar Gum	<i>Eucalyptus cladocalyx 'Nana'</i>	Aust. Native	Evergreen	Moderate
Medium (8 - 16m)	2	Poinciana (Royal)	<i>Delonix regia</i>	Exotic	Deciduous	Moderate
Large (16m +)	1	Blackbutt	<i>Eucalyptus patens</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate
Large (16m +)	2	Illawarra Plum	<i>Podocarpus elatus</i>	Aust. Native	Evergreen	Moderate
Large (16m +)	1	Iron Bark	<i>Eucalyptus sideroxyylon</i>	Aust. Native	Evergreen	Moderate
Large (16m +)	1	Jarrah	<i>Eucalyptus marginata</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate
Large (16m +)	1	Marri	<i>Corymbia calophylla</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate
Large (16m +)	1	Pepper Corn Tree	<i>Schinus molle</i>	Exotic	Deciduous	Moderate
Large (16m +)	1	Power-bark Wandoo	<i>Eucalyptus accedens</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate
Large (16m +)	1	Red Box	<i>Eucalyptus polyanthemos</i>	Aust. Native	Evergreen	Moderate
Large (16m +)	1	Sydney Red Gum	<i>Angophora costata</i>	Aust. Native	Evergreen	Moderate
Large (16m +)	1	Tuart	<i>Eucalyptus gomphocephala</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate
Large (16m +)	1	WA Weeping Peppermint	<i>Agonis flexuosa</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate
Large (16m +)	1	Wandoo	<i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate
Large (16m +)	1	Yellow Bloodwood	<i>Corymbia eximia</i>	Aust. Native	Evergreen	Moderate

These trees are not recommended and should be used with caution

Common name	Botanical Name
American Sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>
Box Elder	<i>Acer negundo</i>
Broadleaved Paperbark	<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>
Cook Pine	<i>Araucaria columnaris</i>
Coral tree	<i>Erythrina x sykesii</i>
Cypress Pine	<i>Cupressus species</i>
Gleditsia	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>
Lemon-scented Gum	<i>Corymbia citriodora</i>
London Plane Tree	<i>Platanus x acerifolius</i>
Moreton Bay Fig	<i>Ficus macrophylla</i>
Norfolk Island Hibiscus	<i>Lagunaria patersonia</i>
Norfolk Island Pine	<i>Araucaria heterophylla</i>
Northern River Red Gum	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis var. obtusa</i>
Port Jackson fig	<i>Ficus rubiginosa</i>
Queensland Box	<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>
River Sheoak	<i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i>
Robinia	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>
Rosewood	<i>Tipuana tipu</i>
Rubber Tree	<i>Ficus elastica</i>
Robinia pseudoacacia	<i>Robinia</i>
Tipuana tipu	<i>Rosewood</i>