



Planting The Right Trees

Trees and Your Pipes





Planting The Right Trees

Trees and Your Pipes

Tree roots are currently responsible for the majority of blockages and breakages to Gippsland Water's sewer and water supply systems.

This brochure will help you identify problem trees and shrubs and avoid any costly mistakes when selecting and planting trees in your yard or neighbourhood.

Know where your water and sewer mains are on your property

Water and sewer mains that service your property are often the primary target of tree roots - within a very short space of time they can begin causing problems for you and Gippsland Water.

Some tree roots have been found to travel up to 30 metres away from their tree base. Once a tree root finds its way into the water or sewer system, the roots begin growing quickly as they have found a constant source of water and nutrients. This enables them to spread long distances within a pipe network, reducing flow and eventually causing blockages and major pipe damage.

Who is responsible?

The cost of repairing and removing invasive tree roots is very expensive for both the home owner and Gippsland Water.

Property owners are responsible for the maintenance of the sewer drains and water pipes inside their property's boundary.

If a tree in your property causes blockages or damage to your sewer drain or Gippsland Water's sewer connection, it is your responsibility to cover all costs for clearing the blockages and/or repairs or replacement costs to the drain or connection.

Similarly, if a tree in your property is causing problems or damage to your neighbour's property, you can also be held liable for the damage caused.



What to do if a tree causes damage on or outside your property

If tree roots cause any damage on your property you will need to contact a licensed plumber to rectify the problem at your expense. Your plumber should not only be able to fix the problem, but also indicate which tree is causing the problem. If the tree is in your property, it is advisable that it be removed as it will continue to cause damage to your property's water and sewer systems.

Prevent the problem

If you are planning on planting any type of tree on your property, it is always worth trying to prevent the invasion of tree roots before it happens. Gippsland Water suggests you:

1. Find out where your sewer and water mains run

If you do not know the location of your property's water and sewer mains, Gippsland Water's Property Services Team can assist you. For a fee, we can provide you with a map of your property sewer drain that services your house within your boundary. With this information, you can avoid planting new trees and shrubs in the wrong area and know which trees or shrubs should be removed before they can cause any costly damage to your services.

2. Speak to a qualified arborist

An arborist will provide you with professional advice on trees and shrubs. Specifically, they can advise you on tree removal, tree surgery and pruning, and tree maintenance, as well as provide advice on the most appropriate species to plant in your garden.

3. Visit your local nursery

A qualified arborist or horticulturalist at your local nursery can provide you with the most up to date information on trees and shrubs for your garden. More importantly, they can also tell you which ones to avoid.

While there are no concrete rules on tree and shrub planting, we have provided you with a species guide to help you make the most informed decision when creating a garden. The reason for this is because some trees become a problem in 10 to 20 years' time.

Problem species 1

Trees that should not be planted within 2.5 metres of a pipe.

The following list outlines some of the most commonly purchased trees and plants for backyards. These plants and trees should not be planted closer than 2.5 metres to any pipe.

Botanical name	Common name
<i>Acacia cultriformis</i>	Knife-Leaf Wattle
<i>Acacia cyclops</i>	Western Coastal Wattle
<i>Acacia howittii</i>	Stick Wattle
<i>Acacia iteaphylla</i>	Gawler Range Wattle
<i>Acacia longifolia</i>	Sallow Wattle
<i>Acacia microbotrya</i>	Manna Wattle
<i>Acacia retinodes</i>	Wirilda
<i>Acacia sophorae</i>	Coast Wattle
<i>Acacia sowdenii</i>	Western Myall
<i>Acacia trineura</i>	Three-nerved Wattle
<i>Acacia victoriae</i>	Bramble Wattle
<i>Acmena paniculata</i>	Bush Cherry
<i>Actinostrobus pyramidalis</i>	Swamp Cypress-Pine
<i>Bauhinia variegata</i> and forms	Ebony Wood
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas Tree
<i>Citharexylum</i> spp.	Fiddlewood
<i>Cotoneaster frigida</i>	Cotoneaster
<i>Crataegus lavalleyi</i>	French Hawthorn
<i>Crataegus oxyacantha</i> and other forms	English Hawthorn
<i>Duranta repens</i>	Sky Flower
<i>Euonymus japonicus</i>	Evergreen Spindle-Tree
<i>Feijoa sellowiana</i> and other forms	Pineapple Guava
<i>Geijera parviflora</i>	Wilga
<i>Hakea elliptica</i>	Oval-leaf Hakea
<i>Hakea laurina</i>	Pincushion Hakea
<i>Hakea petiolaris</i>	Sea-Urchin Hakea
<i>Hakea saligna</i>	Willow-Leaf Hakea
<i>Hakea sulcata</i>	Hakea sulcata
<i>Hakea undulata</i>	Hakea undulata
<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	Golden Rain Tree
<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	Pink Crepe-Myrtle
<i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i>	Coast Tea-Tree
<i>Malus</i> spp.	Crab Apple
<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Oleander
<i>Photinia serrulata</i>	Chinese Hawthorn

Pittosporum crassifolium and variegated form	Karo
Pittosporum phylliraeoiden	Weeping Pittosporum
Prunus spp.	Flowering Fruit Trees
Pyracantha coccinea lalandi	Fire-Thorn
Pyracantha crepulata	Nepal Fire-Thorn
Pyracantha rodgersoniana	Pyracantha rodgersoniana
Sophora tetraptera	Yellow Kowhai
Spartium junceum	Spanish Broom
Stenolobium stans velutina	Yellow Elder
Stenolobium alatum	Stenolobium Alatum
Viburnum tinus	Laurestinus
Vifex agnus-castus	Lilac Chaste-Tree

Problem species 2

Trees that should not be planted within four metres of a pipe

The following list outlines some of the most commonly purchased trees and plants for backyards. These plants and trees should not be planted closer than four metres to any pipe.

Botanical name	Common name
Acacia acuminata	Raspberry-Jam Wattle
Acacia cyanophylla	Orange Wattle
Acacia pendula	Weeping Myall or Boree
Acacia salicina	Willow Wattle
Acacia saligna	Golden Wreath Wattle
Acer negundo	Box Elder Maple
Acmena (Eugenia) smithii	Lilly Pilly
Acmena coolminiana related species	Blue Lilly Pilly
Agonis flexuosa	Willow-Myrtle
Albizzia julibrissin	Pink Silk Tree
Arbustus unedo	Strawberry Tree
Bauhinia carroni and related species	Queensland Bean or Ebony
Betula pendula	Silver Birch
Brachychiton discolor	White Kurrajong
Brachychiton populenus	Kurrajong
Callistemon citrinus	Crimson Bottlebrush
Callistemon 'Gawler Hybrid'	Gawler Hybrid
Callistemon macropuntatus	Scarlet Bottlebrush
Callistemon phoeniceus	Fiery Bottlebrush
Callistemon rigidus	Stiff Bottlebrush
Callistemon salignus	Willow Bottlebrush
Callistemon viminalis and similar species	Weeping Bottlebrush

Casuarina cristata	Belah
Melaleuca cuticularis	Saltwater Paperbark
Melaleuca ericifolia	Swamp Paperbark
Melaleuca hypericifolia	Red Honeymyrtle
Melaleuca leucadendra	Long-leaved Paperbark
Melaleuca nesphila	Showy Honeymyrtle
Melaleuca pentagona	Oval-Leaf Honeymyrtle
Melaleuca quinqueneria	Broad-leaved Paperbark
Melaleuca radula	Graceful Honeymyrtle
Melaleuca squarrosa	Scented Paperbark
Melaleuca styphelioides	Prickly-leaved Paperbark
Myoporum insulare	Boobialla
Myoporum montanum	Water Bush
Parkinson aculeate	Jerusalem Thorn
Pittosporum rhombifolium	Queensland Pittosporum
Pittosporum tenuifolium	Kehuhu
Pittosporum undulatum	Sweet Pittosporum
Pittosporum variegated	Variegated Pittosporum
Sophora japonica	Pagoda Tree
Tristania conferta	Brush Box

Problem species 3

Trees that should not be planted.

The following species should not be planted at all.

Botanical name	Common name
Alnus jorullensis and related species	Evergreen Alder
Araucaria heterophylla	Norfolk Island Pine
Casuarina cunninghamiana	River She-Oak
Casuarina glauca	Grey Buloke
Cinnamomum comphora	Camphor Laurel
Corymbia atrodora	Lemon-scented Gum
Corymbia ficifolia	Red-flowering Gum
Corymbia papuana	Desert Gum/Ghost Gum
Corymbia maculate	Spotted Gum
Crataegus (various species)	Hawthorn
Eucalyptus alba	White Gum
Eucalyptus blakely	Blakely's Red Gum
Eucalyptus camaldulensis	River Red Gum
Eucalyptus globulus	Southern Blue Gum
Eucalyptus leucoxylon	South Australian Blue Gum
Eucalyptus ovata	Swamp Gum



<i>Eucalyptus pauciflora</i>	Snow Gum
<i>Eucalyptus platypus</i>	Round-leaf mallee
<i>Eucalyptus punctata</i>	Grey Gum
<i>Eucalyptus rossii</i>	Inland Scribbly Gum
<i>Eucalyptus saligna</i>	Sydney Blue Gum
<i>Eucalyptus salmononophobia</i>	Salmon Gum
<i>Eucalyptus sargentii</i>	Sargents mallee
<i>Eucalyptus steedmanii</i>	Steedmans Gum
<i>Eucalyptus stricklandii</i>	Stricklands Gum
<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i>	Forest Red Gum
<i>Eucalyptus torquata</i>	Coral Gum
<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>	Ribbon Gum
<i>Eucalyptus woodwardii</i>	Lemon-flowered Gum
<i>Ficus</i> – all species	Fig
<i>Fraxinus oxycarpa</i>	Desert Ash
<i>Fraxinus raywoodii</i> (unless grafted or budded into certified <i>Fraxinus Ornus</i> (Manna Ash) root stock)	Claret Ash
<i>Lagunaria patersoni</i>	Pyramid Tree
<i>Melaleuca cuticularis</i>	Saltwater Paperbark (remove from problem species 2 – all)
<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i>	Swamp Paperbark
<i>Melaleuca hypericifolia</i>	Red Honeymyrtle
<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i>	Long-leaved Paperbark
<i>Melaleuca nesphila</i>	Snowy Honeymyrtle
<i>Melaleuca pentagona</i>	Oval-leaf Honeymyrtle
<i>Melaleuca quinquineria</i>	Broad-leaved Paperbark
<i>Melaleuca radula</i>	Graceful Honeymyrtle
<i>Melaleuca squarrosa</i>	Scented Paperbark
<i>Melaleuca styphelioides</i>	Prickly-leaved Paperbark
<i>Plantanus</i> – all species	Plane Tree
<i>Pittosporum rhombifolium</i>	Queensland Pittosporum (remove from problem species 2 - all)
<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>	Kehuhu
<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	Sweet Pittosporum
<i>Pittosporum variegated</i>	Variegated Pittosporum
<i>Populus-nigra</i> and all related species	Poplar
<i>Robinia inermis</i>	Mop Top Robinia
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False Acacia
<i>Salix</i> – all species	Willows
<i>Schinus molle</i>	Pepper Tree
<i>Tamarix aphylla</i>	Athel Tree
<i>Ulmus procera</i> and related species	English Elm



Planting The Right Trees

Trees and Your Pipes



Further information

If you would like more information on planting the right tree, please visit www.gippswater.com.au and click on 'Saving Water' then 'In The Garden' or call **1800 066 401**.