

TREES AND SHRUBS

The aim of this fact sheet is to:

- Explain Council's policy regarding trees in the city and wider municipal area
- Help avoid potential problems when selecting and planting trees
- Inform what might be done when a problem does occur.

PLANNING CONTROLS

A Planning Permit Application is required to prune, lop or remove a tree of heritage value or trees and vegetation in areas of high landscape quality or biodiversity value under the Glenorchy Interim Planning Scheme 2015.

If you are thinking about removing or pruning a tree please contact the Customer Service Team on 6216 6800 to find out whether a Planning Permit Application is required.

COUNCIL'S POLICY

Council does not prohibit or control the planting of any species of tree within the city. Plant selection is the property owner's responsibility as are problems and costs that result from poor plant selection.

COMMON LAW

The following statement acknowledges a person's "rights" under Common Law.

"Any branch of any plant which overhangs onto a neighbour's property can be cut off (to the property line) by the neighbour, if they are a nuisance, provided that the sawn off branches are returned to the owner of the plant. If they are retained by the neighbour then he has converted them into his own use and in law has stolen them"

For any legal clarification of this matter, consult your solicitor.

Please remember that before carrying out your common rights, it is probably best to first talk to the owner of the tree or plant. Doing this provides an opportunity for you to raise concerns and issues that, if undiscussed, might otherwise inhibit "good neighbourliness". Friendly and co-operative neighbours are valuable assets in any community

Know your trees and shrubs

Decide on the type of tree you want for an area; be aware of its "mature" height, width and the nature of its root system. Do not be tempted into buying trees because they look good in small pots unless you know their growth habit and have a suitable site for them to reach maturity.

Be aware that the tree will not only grow in height but will increase in girth. Allow enough distance from structures, including boundary fences, to allow the tree to grow without causing damage.

Consider the impact your garden has on neighbouring properties. Be aware of possible inconveniences your landscaping can cause your neighbours. Common sense can usually avoid unpleasant disputes that may otherwise be lengthy and costly.

For general guidance, trees should be planted a minimum of half their mature height from buildings, structures or boundary fences. This will minimise the potential for their roots to cause damage or for their canopy to overhang adjoining properties.

AVOIDING POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

Fruits, leaves or limbs dropping onto neighbouring properties cause anxiety for some people and can lead to neighbour disputes. Careful planning when landscaping and regular maintenance afterwards can avoid future problems.

Make sure you know where services such as sewer, storm water, power, water and telecommunications are before you dig. These services are expensive to repair and in some cases, such as power, damage can result in injury or a fatality.

Observe the statutory power authorities' (Tasnetworks and Taswater) recommended above and below ground distances from services.

ROOT DAMAGE

Tree roots are often damaged when buildings are erected. The cutting of major roots can cause a large tree to become unstable. Hard surface areas around the trunk can create a build up of toxins in the soil and affect the tree's health.

Large trees can remove huge amounts of moisture from the soil profile contributing to soil shrinkage and subsidence. This can lead to structural damage to nearby buildings. Preventative steps, such as the installation of root barrier materials, can guard against structural damage.

Tree roots, as a general rule, extend to the same radius as that of the tree's canopy.

WHEN A PROBLEM OCCURS

Talk it over with your neighbour, explain your point of view and what you think is the cause of the problem. Be prepared to suggest two or three possible solutions.

If a solution cannot be found try a mediation service or use the legal system and solve the problem through the Courts.

THE IDEAL TREE

Sheds no leaves; needs no pruning; harbours no insects; grows no roots; will not rot; is immune to noxious gases; folds up and vanishes in the event of vandalism or on vehicular impact. No tree can be all things to all people.

GLENORCHY COUNCIL TREES AND SHRUBS ADVICE FOR PLANTING IN GLENORCHY

Whether you are renovating your garden, or creating a new garden, early consideration given to design and plant selection will be beneficial, economically as well as practically.

The growing need to conserve the use of water both around the home and in public areas will have an impact upon the style and form of our gardens and parks.

Plants that belong to an area are called *endemic*. Use of endemic plants in your garden plan will help to foster a sustainable garden. Endemic plants can be supplemented with your favourite exotic species, creating a diverse and interesting garden. Understanding your soil type and linking that information to plant species will ensure a healthy garden.

For example, plants which thrive in sandy light soils will find it hard going in heavy clay soils. Preparing your garden or area where new trees and shrubs are to be planted will also have beneficial results in the long term. Plant selection must take into consideration the mature height and spread of trees and shrubs ensuring there is plenty of room for growth.

CHOOSING AND PLANTING

Choose young healthy plants in pots free of weeds and moss. Small plants grow quickly and will soon overtake larger ones.

The best time to plant is after the first Autumn rains, before frosts are likely to cause problems or in the Spring when the danger of frost is past.

Avoid frequent light sprinkling as this encourages root growth close to the surface. A good soaking, which allows water to penetrate deep into the soil, will encourage roots to grow down strongly, improving plant stability and survival under dry conditions.

WEED CONTROL AND MULCH

Mulch around newly planted trees and shrubs inhibits weed growth and retains moisture in the soil. Compost or natural leaf litter is ideal and will help to feed the plants as well.

Weed mats are excellent as they allow air and water to pass through to the soil, but they should be covered with thin layer of mulch such as pine bark.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT PLANT

DO I WANT THE LEAVES TO STAY ON OVER WINTER?

Evergreens keep their leaves in autumn and winter. Many trees and shrubs, a few climbers and nearly all conifers are evergreens.

Deciduous shrubs and trees lose their leaves providing a display in autumn when the leaves change colour and drop. They provide another display in spring when branches burst into leaf and buds into blossom.

Having approximately equal numbers of deciduous and evergreens trees and shrubs in a garden will ensure a dramatic effect.

SHRUB

A shrub is a perennial plant which bears several woody stems at ground level. A mature shrub may be only a few inches high or as tall as seven metres, depending on the variety.

CLIMBER

A climber is a perennial plant which has the ability to attach itself to or twine around an upright structure. This climbing habit may not develop until the plant is established.

TREE

A tree is a perennial which bears only one woody stem at ground level. A mature tree may be only 500mm (2 ft) high or as tall as 30 metres (100ft) or more, depending on the variety.

CONIFER

A conifer is a perennial plant which bears cones. These cones are nearly always made up of woody scales, but there are exceptions (the Yew, for example). The leaves are usually evergreen but there are exceptions such as the Larch.

CLIMATE AND ASPECT

Some shrubs and trees will grow almost anywhere but most of them have optimum conditions. Always check before buying, the conditions in your garden may be just right or entirely wrong for the plant in question. Think of your neighbours and the impact your planting will have on their view lines, sunlight and shadowing. Some trees can be used as windbreaks on exposed sites. It is also important to note the path of the sun, for in developing a wind break, over-shadowing can result in a loss of amenity to your garden or a neighbour's garden.

TASMANIAN PLANTS

SMALL - UP TO AND INCLUDING 3M IN HEIGHT

Acacia suaveolens <i>sweet wattle</i>	2.0m
Acacia terminalis <i>sunshine wattle</i>	3.0m
Allocasuarina paludosa	1.0m
Acacia genistifolia prostrate	1.5m spread
Acacia myrtifolia <i>myrtle wattle</i>	1.5m
Baeckea leptocaulis	1.5m
Bauera rubioides	1.5m
Billardiera longiflora <i>climbing blue berry</i>	
Callistemon palladus <i>river bottle brush</i>	3.0m
Callistemon viridiflorus <i>green bottlebrush</i>	2.5m
Calytrix tetragona <i>common fringe myrtle</i>	3.0m
Correa alba <i>white correa</i>	2.0m
Correa lawrenciana <i>mountain correa</i>	2.0m
Correa reflexa <i>native fuchsia</i>	2.0m
Cassina aculeata <i>dolly bush</i>	3.0m

Dodonaea viscosa	3.0m
Hakea nodosa yellow hakea	3.0m
Ozothamnus turbinatus	2.0m
Chrysocephalum apiculatum	20cm
Leucochrysum albicans midlands daisy	0cm
Hibbertia riparia	60cm
Kunzea ambigua white kunzea	2.5m
Leptospermum nitidum glossy tea tree	2.5m
Melaleuca gibbosa	2.5m
Melaleuca squamea swamp honey myrtle	2.5m
Telopea truncata Tasmanian waratah	2.0m
Westringia angustifolia native rosemary	3.0m

MEDIUM - GREATER THAN 3M LESS THAN 12M

Acacia sophorae coastal wattle	4.0m
Acacia verniciflua varnished wattle	3.5m
Acacia verticillata prickly moses	3.5m
Acacia riceana Rice's wattle	6.0m
Acacia mucronata	5.0m
Allocasuarina littoralis black sheoak	6.0m
Allocasuarina verticillata coast sheoak	3-6m
Bursaria spinosa prickly box	4.0m
Banksia marginata silver banksia	6.0m
Banksia serrata saw leaf banksia	6.0m
Bedfordia salicina blanket leaf	6.0m
Callistemon pallidus lemon bottlebrush	3.5m
Callitris oblonga south esk pine	4.0m
Dodonaea viscosa native hop	4.0m
Leptospermum laevigatum coastal tea tree	4.0m
Leptospermum scoparium manuka	3.5m
Leptospermum glaucescens	6.0m
Leptospermum grandiflorum	4.0m
Melaleuca pustulata	6.0m
Melaleuca ericifolia swamp paper bark	4.0m

Melaleuca squarrosa <i>scented honey myrtle</i>	4.0m
Phebalium squameum <i>satinwood</i>	4.0m
Pomaderris elliptica <i>yellow dogwood</i>	4.0m
Prostanthera lasianthos <i>christmas bush</i>	4.0m

Large - 12m or greater

Acacia melanoxylon <i>blackwood</i>	30m
Athrotaxis cupressoides <i>Tasmanian pencil pine</i>	20m
Acradenia frankliniae <i>whitey-wood</i>	10m
Athrotaxis selaginoides <i>king billy pine</i>	40m
Atherosperma moschatum <i>sassafras</i>	45m
Acacia mearnsii <i>black wattle</i>	20m
Eucalyptus archeri <i>Alpine cider gum</i>	12m
Eucalyptus amygdalina <i>black peppermint</i>	12m
Eucalyptus barberi <i>barber's gum</i>	12m
Eucalyptus coccifera <i>snow gum</i>	15m
Eucalyptus cordata <i>silver gum</i>	20m
Eucalyptus gunnii <i>cider gum</i>	18m
Eucalyptus morrisbyi <i>morrisby's gum</i>	12m
Eucalyptus pulchella <i>white peppermint</i>	15m
Eucalyptus risdonii <i>risdon peppermint</i>	8.0m
Eucalyptus rodwayi <i>swamp peppermint</i>	24m
Eucalyptus urnigera <i>urn gum</i>	15m
Eucryphia lucida <i>leatherwood</i>	20m

Where do I find out more?

- View the Glenorchy Interim Planning Scheme at <http://iplan.tas.gov.au>
- Visit Council's website at www.gcc.tas.gov.au
- Email Council at gccmail@gcc.tas.gov.au
- Phone a Council Planner on (03) 6216 6800
- Visit us at the Council Offices, 374 Main Road, Glenorchy.