

Selecting the right tree

Guide for local governments in the Boorloo (Perth)-Bindjareb (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.

This tree list has been prepared for local governments to guide planting trees on verges and in public open space near Water Corporation assets. The purpose is to minimise the risk of damage to water assets and the loss of trees due to incorrect placement. The guide also encourages selection of waterwise trees that have low watering requirements. It does not address all considerations when selecting tree species and planting locations, such as potential damage to other infrastructure, fire risk and traffic sight-lines.

It is not a guide for residents planting trees in their garden, where there are additional constraints and considerations. Residents are encouraged to visit our [Waterwise Plant Directory](#) and refer to their local government for guidelines or requirements when planting trees.

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. Water and wastewater 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.

Suburbs over 20 years old are particularly at risk as they are less likely to have PVC wastewater pipes, which aren't as prone to leakage and tree root damage.

Finding the right tree and location

To help local governments in choosing the most appropriate tree or shrub to plant on verges and in public open space 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 site, visit our [Waterwise Plant Directory](#).

Verges serve as a corridor for utilities with a number of water, electrical, gas and telecommunication pipes located underground within them. Prior to planting a verge tree, local governments must contact [Before You Dig Australia](#) to make sure underground assets won't be damaged or interfered with. All trees must be planted in accordance with the Utility Providers Code of Practice Western Australia, which states that trees must be planted 2.7m from the property boundary line and minimum of 0.5m from water assets.

Please also refer to Western Power's [Clearance Zones](#) for safe distances between trees and overhead powerlines. For local governments planting medium and large street trees (mature height over 5m), please see guidance for [Working near Water Corporation assets](#) and seek [approval for works](#) if working within 10m of our assets. We will work with you 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 local government planting trees or shrubs on verges and in public open space. As stated above in 'Finding the right tree and location', please take care when planting any trees and shrubs as local governments may be liable to pay a fine or the costs of repair if there is any 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:

- 0 Once established will require no supplementary watering
- 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.

Flowering type:

Showy/ornamental

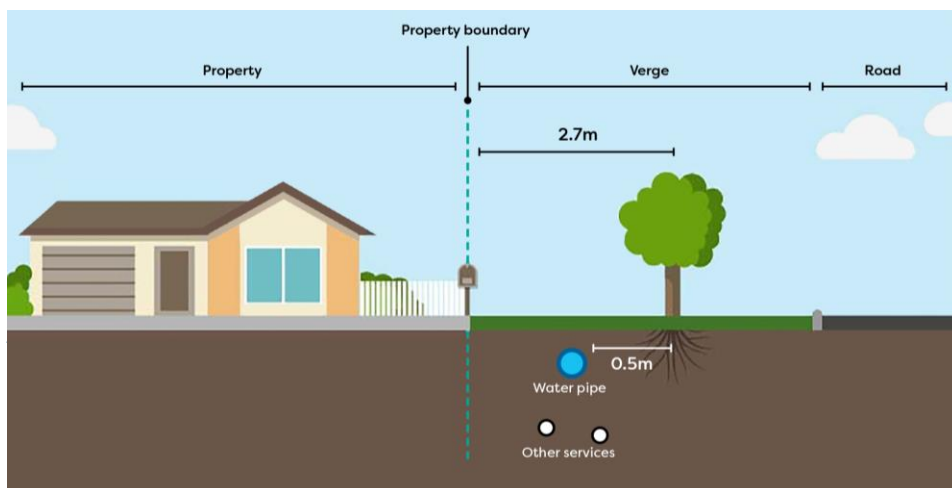
Trees have large flowers or voluminous displays of flowers.

Inconspicuous/small

Trees have flowers, however these may be small, sparse, or not ornamental.

No flowers

Tree does not have flowers.



Suitable for planting in verges (small)

Tree size	Waterwise drop rating	Common name	Botanical Name	Origin	Deciduous or Evergreen	Root invasiveness	Flowering type
Small (4-8m)	1	Bald Island Marlock	<i>Eucalyptus conferruminata</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	0	Beard's Mallee	<i>Eucalyptus beardiana</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Inconspicuous/small
Small (4-8m)	1	Bell Fruited Mallee	<i>Eucalyptus preissiana</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	1	Brachychiton 'Belladonna'	<i>Brachychiton acerifolia</i> x <i>populneus</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	1	Burgundy Weeping Peppermint	<i>Agonis flexuosa</i> 'Burgundy'	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Inconspicuous/small
Small (4-8m)	1	Cottonwood Hibiscus	<i>Hibiscus tileaceus</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	2	Crape Myrtle	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	Exotic	Deciduous	Low	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	1	Crimson mallee	<i>Eucalyptus lansdowneana</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	1	Cut-Leaf Banksia	<i>Banksia praemorsa</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	2	Dawson River Weeper	<i>Callistemon 'Dawson River'</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	0	Desmond Mallee	<i>Eucalyptus desmondensis</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	0	Drummond's Mallee	<i>Eucalyptus drummondii</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	1	Dwarf Yellow	<i>Corymbia eximia</i> 'Nana'	Aus Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	1	Euky Dwarf	<i>Eucalyptus leucoxydon</i> 'Euky'	Aus Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	0	Firewood Banksia	<i>Banksia menziesii</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	0	Fremantle Mallee	<i>Eucalyptus foecunda</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Inconspicuous/small
Small (4-8m)	0	Fuchsia Mallee	<i>Eucalyptus forrestiana</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	1	Gumbi Gumbi/Weeping Pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum angustifolium</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Inconspicuous/small
Small (4-8m)	1	Hybrid Coral Gum	<i>Eucalyptus 'Torwood'</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	0	Illyarrie	<i>Eucalyptus erythrocorys</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	0	Kings Park Special	<i>Callistemon 'Kings Park Special'</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	0	Mottlecah	<i>Eucalyptus macrocarpa</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	2	New Zealand Christmas	<i>Metrosideros thomasi</i>	Exotic	Evergreen	Moderate	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	2	Ornamental Plum	<i>Prunus blireana</i> varieties	Exotic	Deciduous	Low	Inconspicuous/small
Small (4-8m)	0	Pear fruited Mallee	<i>Eucalyptus pyriformis</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	2	Persian Ironwood	<i>Parrotia persica</i>	Exotic	Deciduous	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Small (4-8m)	1	Pin-Cushion Hakea	<i>Hakea laurina</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	2	Purple Leafed Ornamental Plum	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> varieties	Exotic	Deciduous	Low	Inconspicuous/small
Small (4-8m)	0	Red Flowered Mallee	<i>Eucalyptus erythronema</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	1	Red-Flowered Moort	<i>Eucalyptus nutans</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	1	River Yate	<i>Eucalyptus macrandra</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	0	Rose Mallee	<i>Eucalyptus rhodantha</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	0	Round-Leaved Mallee	<i>Eucalyptus orbifolia</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	1	Saltwater Paperbark	<i>Melaleuca cuticularis</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Small (4-8m)	0	Sandplain Woody Pear	<i>Xylomelum angustifolium</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Inconspicuous/small
Small (4-8m)	0	Tallrack	<i>Eucalyptus pleurocarpa</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	0	Webster's Mallee	<i>Eucalyptus websteriana</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	1	Weeping bottlebrush	<i>Callistemon viminalis</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	1	Western Tea Myrtle	<i>Melaleuca nesophila</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	0	Jingymia Mallee	<i>Eucalyptus rosacea</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental

Suitable for planting in verges (medium and large)

Tree size	Waterwise drop rating	Common name	Botanical Name	Origin	Deciduous or Evergreen	Root invasiveness	Flowering type
Medium (8-16m)	1	Wilga/ Australian Willow	<i>Geijera parviflora</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Medium (8-16m)	1	Argyle Apple	<i>Eucalyptus cinerea</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	Low	Inconspicuous/small
Medium (8-16m)	0	Bull Banksia	<i>Banksia grandis</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Medium (8-16m)	1	Chinese Pistachio	<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	Exotic	Deciduous	Low	Showy/ornamental
Medium (8-16m)	1	Claret Ash	<i>Fraxinus 'Raywoodii'</i>	Exotic	Deciduous	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Medium (8-16m)	0	Coastal Moort	<i>Eucalyptus utilis</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Inconspicuous/small
Medium (8-16m)	0	Coral Gum	<i>Eucalyptus torquata</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Medium (8-16m)	2	Evergreen Ash	<i>Fraxinus griffithii</i>	Exotic	Evergreen	Low	Inconspicuous/small
Medium (8-16m)	0	Gungurru	<i>Eucalyptus caesia ssp caesia</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Medium (8-16m)	0	Holly Leaved Banksia	<i>Banksia ilicifolia</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Medium (8-16m)	2	Irish Strawberry tree	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Exotic	Evergreen	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Medium (8-16m)	0	Jam Wattle	<i>Acacia acuminata</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Showy/ornamental
Medium (8-16m)	0	Large Fruited Mallee	<i>Eucalyptus youngiana</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Medium (8-16m)	1	Lemon Flowered Gum	<i>Eucalyptus woodwardii</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Medium (8-16m)	2	Lilly Pilly	<i>Acmena smithii</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Medium (8-16m)	2	Manchurian Pear	<i>Pyrus ussuriensis</i>	Exotic	Deciduous	Low	Inconspicuous/small
Medium (8-16m)	0	Moort	<i>Eucalyptus platypus</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Showy/ornamental
Medium (8-16m)	0	Olive	<i>Olea europa</i>	Exotic	Evergreen	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Medium (8-16m)	1	Red Flowering Broadleaved Paperbark	<i>Melaleuca viridiflora</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Medium (8-16m)	1	Rock Sheoak	<i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Medium (8-16m)	1	SA Yellow Gum	<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon sub species megalocarpa</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Medium (8-16m)	0	Salmon White Gum	<i>Eucalyptus lane-poolei</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Inconspicuous/small
Medium (8-16m)	1	Sea Urchin Hakea	<i>Hakea petiolaris</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Medium (8-16m)	0	Silver Mallee	<i>Eucalyptus crucis</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Medium (8-16m)	0	Silver Princess	<i>Eucalyptus caesia ssp magna</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Medium (8-16m)	1	Snow-in-Summer	<i>Melaleuca linariifolia</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Showy/ornamental
Medium (8-16m)	0	Strickland's Gum	<i>Eucalyptus stricklandii</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Medium (8-16m)	0	Swamp Banksia	<i>Banksia littoralis</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Medium (8-16m)	1	Swamp Mallet	<i>Eucalyptus spathulata</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Medium (8-16m)	0	Tuckeroo	<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Medium (8-16m)	2	Water Gum	<i>Tristaniopsis laurina</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Medium (8-16m)	0	Western Coolabah	<i>Eucalyptus victrix</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Medium (8-16m)	1	Willow Bottlebrush	<i>Callistemon salignus</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Showy/ornamental
Medium (8-16m)	1	Yellow Gum	<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon 'Rosea'</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Showy/ornamental
Large (16m+)	0	Coast Banksia	<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Showy/ornamental
Large (16m+)	2	Flowering Ash	<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	Exotic	Deciduous	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Large (16m+)	1	Jacaranda	<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	Exotic	Deciduous	Moderate	Showy/ornamental
Large (16m+)	1	Lacebark Kurrajong	<i>Brachychiton discolor</i>	Aus Native	Deciduous	Low	Showy/ornamental
Large (16m+)	1	Queensland Firewheel Tree	<i>Stenocarpus sinuatus</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	Low	Showy/ornamental
Large (16m+)	0	River Banksia	<i>Banksia seminuda</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Showy/ornamental
Large (16m+)	1	Rough Barked Apple Gum	<i>Angophora floribunda</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Large (16m+)	2	Weeping Broadleaved Paperbark	<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small

Suitable for planting in public open space

Tree size	Waterwise drop rating	Common name	Botanical Name	Origin	Deciduous or Evergreen	Root invasiveness	Flowering type
Small (4-8m)	2	Cape Leeuwin Wattle	<i>Paraserianthes lophantha</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	2	Native Frangipani	<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	High	Showy/ornamental
Small (4-8m)	1	Rottnest Island Tea-Tree	<i>Melaleuca lanceolata</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Medium (8-16m)	2	Australian Teak	<i>Flindersia australis</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Medium (8-16m)	2	Chinese Elm	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	Exotic	Deciduous	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Medium (8-16m)	0	Coastal Blackbutt	<i>Eucalyptus tottiana</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Inconspicuous/small
Medium (8-16m)	0	Common Sheoak	<i>Allocasuarina fraseriana</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	High	Inconspicuous/small
Medium (8-16m)	2	Judas Tree	<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Exotic	Deciduous	Moderate	Showy/ornamental
Medium (8-16m)	0	Kurrajong	<i>Brachychiton populneus</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	High	Showy/ornamental
Medium (8-16m)	0	Power-bark Wandoo	<i>Eucalyptus accedens</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Medium (8-16m)	1	Redheart Moit	<i>Eucalyptus decipiens</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Inconspicuous/small
Medium (8-16m)	0	Rottnest Island Cypress	<i>Callitris preissii</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	No Flowers
Medium (8-16m)	0	WA Weeping Peppermint	<i>Agonis flexuosa</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Medium (8-16m)	1	Water Gum	<i>Eucalyptus petiolaris</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Medium (8-16m)	1	Wild Plum/ Kaffir Plum	<i>Harpephyllum caffrum</i>	Exotic	Evergreen	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Large (16m+)	1	Blackbutt	<i>Eucalyptus patens</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Large (16m+)	1	Cape Chestnut	<i>Calodendron capense</i>	Exotic	Deciduous	Moderate	Showy/ornamental
Large (16m+)	1	Cork Oak	<i>Quercus suber</i>	Exotic	Evergreen	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Large (16m+)	0	Darling Range Ghost Gum	<i>Eucalyptus laeliae</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Low	Inconspicuous/small
Large (16m+)	2	Holly Leaf Oak	<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Exotic	Evergreen	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Large (16m+)	2	Illawarra Plum	<i>Podocarpus elatus</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	Moderate	No Flowers
Large (16m+)	1	Iron Bark	<i>Eucalyptus sideroxylon</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Showy/ornamental
Large (16m+)	0	Jarrah	<i>Eucalyptus marginata</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Large (16m+)	1	Narrow-leaved Peppermint	<i>Eucalyptus nicholii</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Large (16m+)	2	NZ Christmas tree	<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>	Exotic	Evergreen	High	Showy/ornamental
Large (16m+)	2	Oriental Plane tree	<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Exotic	Deciduous	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Large (16m+)	1	Red Box	<i>Eucalyptus polyanthemus</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Large (16m+)	2	Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Exotic	Deciduous	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Large (16m+)	1	Rose She-oak	<i>Casuarina torulosa</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Large (16m+)	1	Spotted Gum	<i>Corymbia maculata</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Large (16m+)	1	Sydney Red Gum	<i>Angophora costata</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Large (16m+)	1	Tuart	<i>Eucalyptus gomphocephala</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Large (16m+)	0	Wandoo	<i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i>	WA Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Inconspicuous/small
Large (16m+)	0	Yellow Bloodwood	<i>Corymbia eximia</i>	Aus Native	Evergreen	Moderate	Showy/ornamental

These trees are not recommended

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>
Cypress Pine	<i>Cupressus species</i>
English Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
Golden Ash	<i>Fraxinus aurea</i>
Hackberry	<i>Celtis mississippiensis</i>
Honey Locust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>
Lemon-scented Gum	<i>Corymbia citriodora</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</i> var. <i>obtusa</i>
Norway Maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>
Port Jackson fig	<i>Ficus rubiginosa</i>
Queensland Box	<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
River Sheoak	<i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i>
Rosewood	<i>Tipuana tipu</i>
Rubber tree	<i>Ficus elastica</i>
Small Leaf Fig	<i>Ficus microcarpa</i>
Tupelo	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> 'Tupelo'
Water Oak	<i>Quercus nigra</i>

Please also refer to the [Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's](#) current data on susceptible tree species and known hosts of Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB). Avoid planting tree species that are known reproductive hosts of PSHB.

Release of liability

By using the waterwise tree list, you agree to release, waive, and hold harmless the Water Corporation, its employees, agents, and affiliates from all claims, damages, losses, liabilities, or expenses arising out of or related to:

1. your use of or reliance on the waterwise tree list;
2. the selection, planning, or maintenance of any tree on your property or site; and
3. any property damage, personal injury, or environmental impact resulting from your tree selection or planting choices.

For more information please contact:

wepartnerships@watercorporation.com.au

13 13 85 Account enquiries (8am - 5pm weekdays)

13 13 75 Faults, Emergencies and Security (24 hours)