



QBCC Lic# 1198242

# COASTAL

**Wastewater Specialists**

ABN: 69 164 584 369

Planting Guide – The following extract is relevant whether your property is seweraged or uses an on-site sewerage treatment plant or septic tank system.

## Do you have a Monster in Your Backyard?

### Some trees are not suitable for planting near your sewer pipes.

Trees and shrubs play an important role in our daily life - they enhance the environment whilst providing shade, windbreaks and aesthetic value to any home. However some species are unsuitable for planting near your home's sewer pipes and Council sewer mains.

#### HOW DO TREE ROOTS DAMAGE PIPES?

Roots anchor and support trees, but they also seek and supply moisture and nutrients for continued growth. Roots normally extend around 1.5 times the length of an adult plant's branches. During dry periods, in particular, tree roots will search for any trace of moisture and nutrient, both of which can be found in sewer pipes.

Tree roots are very persistent and surprisingly strong, they will take advantage of any and every opportunity to get inside sewer pipes. Often this is achieved through small cracks or fractures, or through ill-fitting pipe joints.

Few people realise how aggressive the roots of certain trees and shrubs can be in their search for moisture. Tree roots start as fine fibrous feeding masses, with their 'tails' spreading long distances through the pipe, resulting in reduced flow rates and eventually complete blockages.

The degree of risk and damage caused by tree roots depends on the species concerned, its proximity to sewer pipes, and the composition of your sewer pipes (clay, pvc, etc).

Damage to sewer pipes and other structures can cause great expense and inconvenience to homeowners - repairing or replacing damaged sewer pipes can be very expensive. Once again PREVENTION is better than the cure.

#### WHAT CAN I PLANT NEAR SEWER PIPES?

The following three tables are a basic guide only - distances can vary depending on the type and condition of both the pipes and soil on your property. But remember that too far from a pipe is much better than too close. You should consult your local nursery if you still have concerns about planting a particular species.

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**COASTAL SERVICES Q PTY LTD ATF COASTAL SERVICES TRUST**

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## PLANT AT LEAST 5 METRES AWAY FROM SEWER PIPES

Banksia	Lilac Chaste Tree
Baekea – all species	Mexican Hawthorn
Bleeding Heart Tree	Mock Orange
Escalonia – all varieties	Night Scented Jasmine
Gordonia	Orchid Tree Bauhinia
Grevillea	Rodeletia
Hakea	Skyflower / Duranta
Hawthorn / Maytree	Teatree
Karo	Wattle / Acacia
Lady of the Night	Yellow Throat

## PLANT AT LEAST 10 METRES AWAY FROM SEWER PIPES

Almonds	Japanese Maple
Apricots	Jerusalem Thorn
Arizona Cypress	Judas Tree
Ash	Juniper
Barberry / Berberis	Kurrajong
Belah	Laburnum
Boobialla	Lilly Pilly
Camellia	Mealy Stringy Bark
Cherries	Monstera
Christmas Bush	Myrtle
Crepe Myrtle	Pampas Grass
Ebony Tree	Peaches
Fiddlewood	Plums
Flame Tree	Rose She Oak
Flowing Tamarisk	Saucer Magnolia
Frangipani	Silver Leaved Mountain
Hibiscus	Washington Thorn
Hybrid Flame Tree	Weeping Pittosporu
Irish Strawberry	Yorell

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## THESE SPECIES ARE NOT RECOMMENDED FOR PLANTING

Athel Tree	Liquid Ambar
Bamboos	Magnolias
Bottlebrush / Callistemon	Mango Tree
Bougainvilleas	Oleander
Brush Box	Pepper Tree
Camphor Laurel	Pine
Canary Island or Date	Pineapple Guava
Ceanothus	Planes - all species
Chinese Hawthorn	Poinciana
Claret Ash	Poplars
Coral Trees	Privets
Desert or Caucasian Ash	Pyramid Tree
Elms	Rhus Trees & Scrubs
Eucalyptus / Gum	Robur Banksia
Evergreen Spindle Tree	Rubber Tree
False Acacia / Blacklocust	Silky Oak
Figs - all species	Tipu Tree
Firethorn	Umbrella Tree
Flowering Crabs & Apples	White Cedar
Hollies	Willow
Jacaranda	Wisteria

Please note that it is suggested that any species of plant is a potential threat to sewer pipes.

### **For Properties Utilising On-Site Sewerage Treatment Plant Or Septic Tanks:**

1. Always keep the top 100mm of the tank lid exposed and above ground level.
2. Do not cover your tank with anything – we need access to the tank during servicing. Do not cover with pine bark/ furniture/pot plants etc.
3. Be very selective about the plants you use in the vicinity of the tank, the disposal area and the plumbing connection between your house and the tank.
4. Remember that some trees and plants have roots that can extend significant distances from where they are planted – take care in your selection of new plants and pay due regard to the location when planting new trees/plants.

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# Suitable Vegetation for Planting of Effluent Disposal Areas

This extract is from the Standards – REFER TO YOUR LOCAL NURSERY/GARDEN SUPPLIES.

## Small Trees & Palms

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height (M)
Acacia Floribunda	Gossamer Wattle	2-4
Acacia Longifolia	Sallow Wattle	2-4
Banksia spp.	Banksia	Various
Hakea spp	Hakea	
Melaleuca Nespheila	Western Tea Myrtle	2-4
Pittosporum	Native Apricot	Various
Palms	Dwarf Date Palm	
	Golden Cane Palm	

## Shrubs

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height (M)
Abelia x Grandiflora	Abelia	2-3
Acacia Iteaphylla	Flinders Ranges Wattle	
Acacia Floribunda	Gossamer Wattle	2-4
Acacia Longifolia	Sallow Wattle	2-4
Cassia	Various	Various
Charmelaucium Uncinatum	Geraldton Wax	1-2
Dryandra Formosa	Showy Dryandra	1-3
Eremophila	Emu Bush	Various
Grevillea	Grevillea	1-3
Melaleuca Incana	Melaleuca	
Melaleuca Thymofolia	Melaleuca	
Melaleuca Decussata	Cross-Leaves Honey Myrtle	1-2
Nerium Oleander	Oleander	Various
Phormium Tenax	New Zealand Flax	2-2.5
Melaleuca Decussata	Flinders Ranges Wattle	2-3
Hebe	Veronica	Various
Hibiscus spp	Hibiscus	
Iris Pseudacorus	Yellow Flag	
Cyoeerus Alternifolius	Umbrella Grass	0.5-1

## Grasses, Groundcovers, Perennials

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height (M)
Lomandra Longifolia	Lomandra	
Lomandra Histris	Lomandra	
Agapanthus Preaecox	Agapanthus	
Ophopogon		
Astor novi-belgii	Astor	
Canna x generalis	Canna	
Vetiver Vetiver		
Grevillea Poorinda	Royal Mantle	
Coprosma Kirkii		
Acanthus Mollis		

**Your local nursery and garden supplies are the best source of information for plants suited to your area – ensure that they are aware that they are to be used for an effluent irrigation area.**

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