

Think Smart, Plant Smart

Plant Smart is a vegetation management program developed by Ergon Energy and Greening Australia to educate the community on planting appropriate trees under and around powerlines.

The Central Highlands Regional Council is leading the way by actively participating in the Plant Smart program to help you choose the right plants for planting near powerlines. This ensures that the trees won't grow into powerlines, potentially disrupting the power supply to you and your neighbours and bringing live powerlines to the ground in a storm or windy conditions. It also ensures Ergon Energy's tree management contractors won't have to remove a tree that you've come to love.

Following is a list of plants of various heights that are suitable for planting under and near powerlines. Your local nursery should be able to assist in identifying the right plant for you. Planting anything else near powerlines is just not worth the risk.

How to Plant Smart

- Check with the council for your local planting guidelines, especially if planning to plant on your council footway.
- Consider the location of overhead and underground services, including the service line to your home. Call 'Dial Before You Dig' on 1100 to request information on underground cables on, or near your property.
- Consider carefully which type of tree you should plant. Is it evergreen or deciduous? Will its roots, branches, sap, flowers, or fruits damage buildings, fences, footpaths, roads, foundations, or vehicle paintwork?
- Check the visibility from your driveway, intersection sight lines and access to your property.
- Consider pedestrian traffic, mail service and garbage truck access.
- Check required clearance from street lights.

How to plant a tree so that it thrives

- Dig a hole 300mm from the edge of the root ball on the tree.
- Loosen up the sides of the hole to promote root penetration.
- Water crystals can aid in water retention.
- Create a well around your tree with soil to help retain water and reduce water run off.
- Place mulch to a depth of 150mm around the base of your tree, but away from the trunk to prevent rot.
- Thoroughly water each tree immediately after planting and as required.
- Once planted, water the tree regularly in dry weather (check under the mulch to see if the soil is dry). Even so-called drought-tolerant plants need to be watered regularly until their roots become established.
- Native trees can be fertilised for much better growth. Use a fertiliser that is low in phosphorus, marked as 'P' on the label of the bag. To determine if your fertiliser is suitable, check the N:P:K (nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium) composition. Use one that contains less than 3% P; those with low P but high N and K are fine, e.g. 11:2:13.

Emerald

- rocky rambler (*Callistemon pearsonii*)
- golden gem (*Melaleuca bracteata*)
- zig zag wattle (*Acacia macradenia*)
- Mount Morgan wattle (*Acacia podalyriifolia*)
- bottlebrush (*Callistemon 'Baroondah Station'*)
- bottlebrush (*Callistemon 'Western Glory'*)
- bottlebrush (*Callistemon 'Taree Pink'*)
- spotted emubush (*Eremophila maculata*)
- red flowered moort (*Eucalyptus nutans*)
- red budded mallee (*Eucalyptus pachyphylla*)
- dwarf claret tops (*Melaleuca linariifolia*)

Peak Downs

- blue desert mallee (*Eucalyptus gamophylla*)
- laurustinus (*Viburnum tinus*)
- creek wilga (*Eremophila bignoniiflora*)
- brush cherry (*Syzygium australe 'Aussie Compact'*)
- bottlebrush (*Callistemon polandii 'Peak Downs'*)
- Coastal rosemary (*Westringia fruticosa*)

Bauhinia

- *Baekea virgata*
- bottlebrush (*Callistemon 'Mauve Mist'*)
- bottlebrush (*Callistemon pearsonii*)
- emu bush (*Eremophila maculata*)
- grevillea (*Grevillea 'Robyn Gordon'*)
- Bank's grevillea (*Grevillea banksii*)
- grevillea (*Grevillea floribunda*)
- copper glow (*Leptospermum polygalifolium*)
- golden gem (*Melaleuca bracteata*)
- westringia (*Westringia 'Wynabbi Gem'*)

Duaringa

- twiggy myrtle (*Baeckea virgata*)
- narrow-leaved bottlebrush (*Callistemon linearis*)
- gold tipped bottlebrush (*Callistemon polandii*)
- white bottlebrush (*Callistemon salignus 'Perth Pink'*)
- creek bottlebrush (*Callistemon viminalis 'Wilderness White'*)
- spreading flax lily (*Dianella revoluta*)
- large wild iris (*Dietes bicolor*)
- silky grevillea (*Grevillea sericea*)
- Byfield spider flower (*Grevillea venusta*)
- lemon scented tea tree (*Leptospermum petersonii*)



Central Highlands Regional Council

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Plant Smart
A VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP



Find out more

ergon.com.au Search for 'Plant Smart' for a list of participating nurseries.
greeningaustralia.org.au or email plantsmart@greeningaustralia.org.au
for more information about Greening Australia.