

# Tree Species List FAQ and user guide

Trees play an essential role in making Sydney an attractive, healthy and sustainable city. They improve our health and wellbeing, improve air quality and biodiversity, reduce stormwater runoff, moderate heating and cooling costs, and add to local amenity.

Selecting the most appropriate tree to be planted is an important process. It can be crucial to the long-term success of a landscape.

We have developed a list of trees appropriate for planting within our local area. It's available for all to use and can help select a tree that is suitable for your planting location. With 300 tree species to choose from, we have created an online tool to help you narrow the selection and find the right tree for your location. This FAQ answers some key questions and provides a short guide to help.

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## What is the best tree to plant?

It's all about choosing the right tree for the right place. The key considerations are;

- its **mature size and shape**. To get the most benefit from a tree it is important to select an appropriately sized and shaped tree for the space you have available. The Species List contains this information as a guide. Also, consider how far the tree should be setback from yours and your neighbour's buildings and other infrastructure / utilities (e.g. power lines).
- if it's **deciduous or evergreen**. Evergreen trees will retain leaves and provide shade all year, whereas the majority of deciduous trees drop their leaves during the winter months, allowing more sunlight, but regrow them to provide shade during summer.
- the **environmental conditions** it grows best in. This includes the type and quantity of soil, water availability, and if it's a shady, sunny, windy or harbour edge (salt exposed) site.

Following these key factors, tree selection can be based on other preferences including as native / exotic species, flowers, trunk and bark appearance etc.

A new tree is an investment in the future. To get the best value for money, ask your nursery or tree supplier if their tree conforms with the Australian Standard "Tree Stock for Landscape Use".

When planting the tree:

- dig a hole at least three times the width of the pot or root bag.
- place the tree in the centre of the hole. The depth of the hole should be just enough so that the top of the roots are level with the surrounding soil surface.
- backfill the hole with soil and add water immediately to get the tree off to a good start.
- remember to water the tree more in hot dry weather and less in cool wet weather.

## Where can I access the species list?

The list is on the City's data hub website. You can access the list here:

<https://data.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/datasets/cityofsydney::city-of-sydney-tree-species-list/about>

This home page for the list contains background information and shows the 22 different attributes you can search for. Click on view table (circled below) to get started.



### City of Sydney Tree Species List



City of Sydney Data Hub  
City of Sydney

View Table

Download

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To review all 300 trees, drag the bar on the right of the screen up and down (or using the wheel on your mouse) and left to right by dragging the bar at the bottom of the screen.

## How do I narrow down the number of species?

To filter the list to trees suited to your location and personal preferences, click on the filter tab (circled) that looks like a funnel. This gives you 22 attributes to select, that will narrow the list.

Scroll through all the attributes by dragging the bar immediately to the right (circled) up and down. Choose an attribute by ticking the box on the left shown with a square.

**CITY OF SYDNEY**

**Filters**  
City of Sydney Tree Species List

Common name  
Search 282 values

Select attribute filters (22)

- ☐ Ref ID 2 to 400
- ☐ Family 54 values
- ☐ Genus 138 values
- ☐ Species 255 values
- ☐ Variety 30 values
- ☒ Common name 282 values

Showing 100 of 299 rows

Genus	Species	Variety	Common name
Callistemon	viminalis		Weeping Bottlebrush
Myrtus	australe		Brush Cherry
Myrtus	ficifolia		Red Flowering Gum
Myrtus	nobilis		Wollemi Pine
Myrtus	cooperi		Lacy Tree Fern
Myrtus	discolor		Queensland Lacebark
Dysoxylum	lutescens		Golden Cane Palm
Calodendrum	capense		Cape Chestnut
Olea	europaea subsp. europaea		European Olive
Geijera	parviflora		Willga

## How do I change the filters or return to the larger list?

To remove the filters and return to the original list, click on the cross in the top right-hand corner of the ticked attribute (circled). This will take you back to the start to search for the right tree for your location.

**CITY OF SYDNEY**

**Filters**  
City of Sydney Tree Species List

Nominal height  
4 to 30

Select attribute filters (22)


- ☐ Origin 3 values
- ☒ Nominal height 4 to 30
- ☐ Nominal spread 2 to 30
- ☐ Shape 10 values
- ☐ Growth rate 3 values

Showing 25 of 67 rows

Ref ID	Family	Genus	Species
47	Ericaceae	Arbutus	canariensis
132	Fabaceae	Delonix	regia
224	Malvaceae	Hibiscus	tiliaceus
209	Oleaceae	Fraxinus	velutina
101	Cannabaceae	Celtis	paniculata
48	Ericaceae	Arbutus	menziesii
135	Arecaceae	Dysoxylum	decaryi
256	Magnoliaceae	Magnolia	doltsopa
12	Sapindaceae	Acer	buergerianum
250	Arecaceae	Livistona	chinensis

## How do I select evergreen or deciduous trees?

To select an evergreen or deciduous tree tick the dormancy attribute (shown with the square) and then select one or more of the options.

**CITY OF SYDNEY** 

**Filters**  
City of Sydney Tree Species List

Dormancy

- ☐ Evergreen 72.58%
- ☒ Deciduous Winter 19.06%
- ☐ Deciduous Other 8.36%

Select attribute filters (22)

- ☐ Growth rate 3 values
- ☐ Special amenity value 4 values
- ☒ Dormancy 1 values
- ☐ Light 2 values

Showing 50 of 57 rows


Ref ID	Family	Genus	Species
231	Sapindaceae	Koelreuteria	bipinnata
310	Apocynaceae	Plumeria	acutifolia
209	Oleaceae	Fraxinus	velutina
336	Fagaceae	Quercus	canariensis
340	Fagaceae	Quercus	lusitanica
371	Bignoniaceae	Tabebuia	impetiginosa
12	Sapindaceae	Acer	buergerianum
261	Magnoliaceae	Magnolia	liliflora
360	Fabaceae	Styphnolobium	japonicum
379	Malvaceae	Tilia	cordata

## How do I select trees based on height?

If you are looking for a tree of a certain height, tick the nominal height attribute (shown in the square). This gives the option to filter different height ranges.

To change the height range to your desired dimensions, slide the circles to the left and right to the required height.

The example has a height range of 8 to 12 metres.

**CITY OF SYDNEY** 

**Filters**  
City of Sydney Tree Species List

Nominal height

Select attribute filters (22)

- ☐ Variety 20 values
- ☐ Common name 282 values
- ☐ Origin 3 values
- ☒ Nominal height 129
- ☐ Nominal spread 2 to 30

Showing 50 of 67 rows

Ref ID	Family	Genus	Species
372	Bignoniaceae	Tabebuia	palmeri
74	Malvaceae	Brachychiton	x roseus
190	Moraceae	Ficus	lyrata
47	Ericaceae	Arbutus	canariensis
132	Fabaceae	Delonix	regia
224	Malvaceae	Hibiscus	tillaceus
209	Oleaceae	Fraxinus	velutina
101	Cannabaceae	Celtis	paniculata
48	Ericaceae	Arbutus	menziesii
135	Arecaceae	Dypsis	decaryi

## Can I select more than one attribute at a time?

You can select as many or as few attributes as you like.

Below is an example of using the nominal height and nominal spread filters at the same time. Just like with the nominal height filter slide the circles to the left and right to the required spread.

The example below is a height range of 8 to 12 metres and spread of 6 to 10 metres. This reduces the number of trees to 25.

At any time, you can apply another attribute to reduce the number further until you have a list suitable for your needs.

**CITY OF SYDNEY**

**Filters**  
City of Sydney Tree Species List

Nominal height: 4 to 30

Nominal spread: 2 to 30

Select attribute filters (22)

- ☐ Origin (3 values)
- ☒ Nominal height (4 to 30)
- ☒ Nominal spread (2 to 30)
- ☐ Shape (10 values)

Showing 25 of 299 rows

Ref ID	Family	Genus	Species
377	Melastomataceae	Tibouchina	macratha
372	Bignoniaceae	Tabebuia	palmeri
347	Primulaceae	Rapanea	howittiana
199	Rutaceae	Flindersia	bennettiana
180	Myrtaceae	Eucalyptus	saligna x botryoides
74	Malvaceae	Brachychiton	x roseus
46	Ericaceae	Arbutus	andrachnoides
230	Arecaceae	Jubaea	chilensis
190	Moraceae	Ficus	lyrata
47	Ericaceae	Arbutus	canariensis
313	Annonaceae	Polyalthia	longifolia
231	Sapindaceae	Koelreuteria	bipinnata

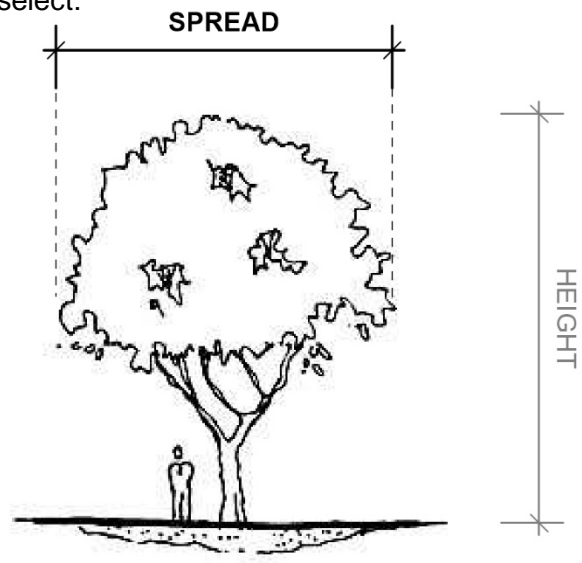
## The City says I need to plant a tree of a certain size – which attribute do I use?

Where the Development Control Plan (DCP) or a planting condition specified by the City requires a tree to be planted, we will specify the future size of the tree using the DCP tree sizes of large, medium, small plus or small. This is to ensure sufficient canopy cover is provided.

The list contains the 'Canopy spread classification (DCP)' attribute to help guide the trees suitable for planting as part of a development or to replace a tree removed.

Importantly, this attribute relates to the future canopy spread of the tree, not its height or container size at planting. It gives the below four filters to select:

- Large 12-30 metre spread
- Medium 8-10 metre spread
- Small plus 6-7 metres spread
- Small 2-5 metres spread





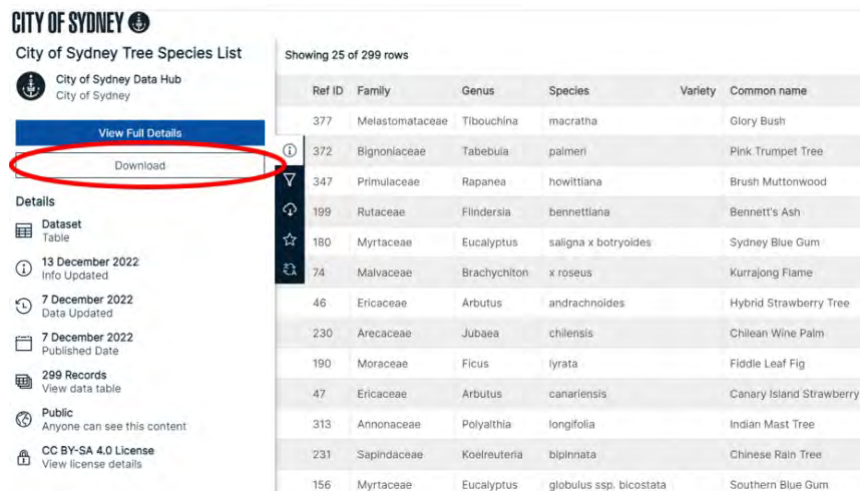
## The tree I like is not on this list, can I still plant it?

Potentially, if the tree is not on the list of species outlined in the [Tree Species Development Use Report Attachment B – Trees excluded](#). If the tree is not on that list, it is still best to check with the nursery you are purchasing it from before proceeding.

Please note if the planting relates to a Development Application, City staff may draw on other information / research to help guide the planting of the most appropriate tree for that site.

## Can I download the list?

The list has many different filtering functions however, if you wish to view the data in a different format you can click on the download tab (circled below) for options including a CSV and excel file spreadsheets. Please note this function will download the entire list, not your selection.



**CITY OF SYDNEY**  
City of Sydney Tree Species List  
City of Sydney Data Hub  
City of Sydney

Showing 25 of 299 rows

Ref ID	Family	Genus	Species	Variety	Common name
377	Melastomataceae	Tibouchina	macratha		Glory Bush
372	Bignoniaceae	Tabebuia	palmeri		Pink Trumpet Tree
347	Primulaceae	Rapanea	howittiana		Brush Muttonwood
199	Rutaceae	Flindersia	bennettiana		Bennett's Ash
180	Myrtaceae	Eucalyptus	saligna x botryoides		Sydney Blue Gum
74	Malvaceae	Brachychiton	x roseus		Kurrajong Flame
46	Ericaceae	Arbutus	andrachnoides		Hybrid Strawberry Tree
230	Arecaceae	Jubaea	chilensis		Chilean Wine Palm
190	Moraceae	Ficus	lyrata		Fiddle Leaf Fig
47	Ericaceae	Arbutus	canariensis		Canary Island Strawberry
313	Annonaceae	Polyalthia	longifolia		Indian Mast Tree
231	Sapindaceae	Koelreuteria	bipinnata		Chinese Rain Tree
156	Myrtaceae	Eucalyptus	globulus ssp. bicostata		Southern Blue Gum

**Details**  
Dataset Table  
13 December 2022 Info Updated  
7 December 2022 Data Updated  
7 December 2022 Published Date  
299 Records View data table  
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## Who developed the Tree Species List?

The City of Sydney Tree Species List (the list) was developed with the assistance of experienced professional arborists, urban foresters, landscape architects, a plant climate change academic and Indigenous ecologist. It is hoped that the list will be a valuable resource that assists in the selection and planting of trees on public and private land, so we can all enjoy the benefits from these trees well into the future.

More information about how the list was developed and further functionality is available here: [Tree Species List – Development and Use Report](#).