



CENTRAL HIGHLANDS RESIDENTIAL TREE GUIDE

A guide for what to plant in your garden



prepared by:
U PLAN Landscape Architects
0414 494 066
steve@uplan.com.au
www.uplan.com.au

Contents

A Residential Tree Guide

10 Great Things About Trees
(and what they do for your garden)!

Top tree picks:


Which tree is right for you?

Will it grow easily?

How do I plant a tree?

How do I care for my tree?

Hardy shrubs and groundcovers ... a few
suggestions!



Do you know of a significant
or special tree in the region?

You can record that tree,
noting its location and
providing a photo on the
*Central Highlands' Significant
Tree Register* via the Council's
website.

A Residential Tree Guide

This guide will help you select, plant and care for trees in your garden and/or nature strip. The Central Highlands Regional Council's Parks and Gardens department have been working with tree experts Alan Chenoweth and Steve Moss to identify a selected set of tough, fast growing and moderately sized tree species that are low maintenance and can thrive in our region.

Caring for our trees will assist our community in creating a sustainable future for the region's flora and fauna.



1

Trees improve property values

2

Trees encourage outdoor activity and improve health and well being

3

Trees provide shade, and also cool nearby structures, reducing the heat island effects

4

Trees offer habitat and provide greater biodiversity

5

Trees greatly enhance visual amenity

6

Trees create a sense of place and local identity

7

Trees reduce stormwater flows and improve groundwater flows and nutrient loads

8

Trees improve soil quality through decomposition of matter & nutrient recycling (plus reducing erosion & stabilising soil)

9

Trees help reduce the impacts of climate change

10

Trees reduce air pollution and air-borne particles

10 Great Things About Trees
(and what they can do for your garden)!



Top Tree Picks

These are our tree experts' top picks for your garden. They are a range of hardy, low maintenance trees which suit a range of conditions, situations and uses.

We have provided a brief description of the region's top performers with useful information about appearance and features to assist with planting decisions. There are other suitable trees so consult your local nursery or tree supplier for other helpful suggestions.

We have also included a list of good low shrubs, grasses and ground covers.

Bottlebrush

Melaleuca viminalis

The Bottlebrush is a common sight in many yards, streets and parks. It has arching foliage and large numbers of iconic bright red flowers across Spring and Summer. A fast growing tree, it is a hardy species that thrives in most soil types when grown in full sun. Once established it is able to tolerate extended dry periods. It is well adapted to watercourses and has the ability to slow floodwater and reduce erosion. It will respond to pruning, and can be hedged however this can have a detrimental effect on its weeping habit.

PLANTING CONSIDERATIONS

Possible uses	Screening Hedge Feature Tree Nature Strip Tree Erosion control
Foliage	Evergreen
Flowers	Late Spring and Autumn
Growth rate	Fast
Mature size	height 5-8m, spread 3-4m
Suitable under powerlines	Yes
Drought tolerance	High, once established
Tolerant of poor soil	Yes
Other features	Bird attracting Suitable for planters



Tuckeroo

Cupaniopsis anacardioides

As an Australian native, the Tuckeroo is popular due to its attractive foliage, compact, rounded form and non-invasive root system. It has large glossy green leaves, smooth grey bark, and a spreading crown shape, making it a good shade tree. It has green-yellow flowers in spring followed by decorative orange-yellow seed pods in summer. A good, low maintenance plant rarely troubled by pests or disease. Prefers a sunny or partly shady position in free draining soil rich in organic matter.

PLANTING CONSIDERATIONS

Typical use	Screening Avenue planting Ornamental planting Nature Strip Tree
Foliage	Evergreen
Flowers	Autumn
Growth rate	Moderate-Fast
Mature size	height 8-10m, spread 7m
Suitable under powerlines	Yes
Drought tolerance	High, once established
Tolerant of poor soil	Yes
Other features	Bird attracting Provides deep shade Frost tolerant



Red Bauhinia/Pegunny

Lysiphyllum carronii

This hardy species is often a multi-stemmed tree and reads as a tall shrub or small tree. It provides good shade, despite shedding leaves in very dry conditions.

It grows well on exposed sites, preferring a sunny position and fertile, well-drained, moisture-retentive soils. Its flowers are red to rusty-brown becoming papery pods. Pruning is not usually required, but can be done after flowering if necessary.

PLANTING CONSIDERATIONS	
Possible uses	Sunny, Exposed Location Nature Strip Tree Erosion Control
Foliage	Evergreen (occasionally briefly deciduous)
Flowers	Spring - Summer
Growth rate	Moderate-Fast
Mature size	height 8-10m, spread 3-6m
Suitable under powerlines	No
Drought tolerance	High, once established
Tolerant of poor soil	No
Other features	Bird and bee attracting Shade Low maintenance



Weeping Tea Tree

Leptospermum brachyandrum

With weeping branches and fresh lemon scented foliage, the Weeping Tea Tree grows best in full sun areas and attracts bees while flowering during spring to early summer. Use this tree to create a lovely natural screen or plant as a feature in dry native gardens. This tree is drought tolerant and adaptable to most soils.

PLANTING CONSIDERATIONS	
Typical use	Screening Exposed sites Informal feature tree Group planting
Foliage	Evergreen
Flowers	Spring - Summer
Growth rate	Moderate-Fast
Mature size	height 3-5m, spread 2-3m
Suitable under powerlines	Yes
Drought tolerance	High
Tolerant of poor soil	Yes
Other features	Suitable for poorly drained soils Frost tolerant Bird attracting



© www.NatureLoveYou.sg

Golden Penda

Xanthostemon chrysanthus

A fast growing and versatile tree that produces masses of amazing yellow flowers in Summer and Autumn. Plant this tree to add colour to your garden, to screen the neighbours or for its shape, and attractive foliage. All these factors makes it a spectacular feature tree in a lawn or garden bed. Plant in full sun or part shade position and apply slow release fertiliser annually. They grow best in well drained soil and can be pruned to shrub size if required.

PLANTING CONSIDERATIONS

Typical use	Screening Windbreak Feature tree Shade Nature strip
Foliage	Evergreen
Flowers	Summer - Autumn
Growth rate	Fast
Mature size	height 8m, spread 5m
Suitable under powerlines	Yes
Drought tolerance	Low-Medium
Tolerant of poor soil	No
Other features	Bird attracting Pest resistant



Tulipwood

Harpullia pendula

This small - medium tree's form and clusters of attractive bright orange fruit makes it a popular choice as a feature or ornamental tree. It is a rugged species that can withstand the temperature extremes of the Central Highlands' climate. New growth is bronze-green which contrasts nicely with the glossy dark green leaves which provides excellent shade.

PLANTING CONSIDERATIONS

Typical use	Feature tree Shade Nature strip
Foliage	Evergreen
Flowers	Summer
Growth rate	Fast
Mature size	height 10m, spread 6m
Suitable under powerlines	No
Drought tolerance	High
Tolerant of poor soil	Yes
Other features	Bird and butterfly attracting Dense crown Tolerates full sun



'Revolution Gold'/Revolution Green'

Melaleuca bracteata

A species which is widely used owing to its compact shape, and abundance of creamy white 'bottlebrush' flowers. It can grow as a large upright shrub or medium tree and will grow almost anywhere. With its attractive golden (Revolution Gold) or bright green (Revolution Green) foliage they can be planted to form colour contrasting screens or windbreaks. They also respond well to pruning which can make them a good choice as a low maintenance feature tree.

PLANTING CONSIDERATIONS

Typical use	Screening Windbreak Hedge Feature tree
Foliage	Evergreen
Flowers	Spring - Summer
Growth rate	Moderate - Fast
Mature size	height 4m, spread 2m
Suitable under powerlines	Yes
Drought tolerance	High
Tolerant of poor soil	Yes
Other features	Oil can be used as insect repellent Frost tolerant Bee, bird, butterfly attracting



Evergreen Frangipani

Plumeria obtusa

The iconic fragrant flowers will provide colour and the rounded form adds structure to your garden. The clusters of blossoms and dark leathery green leaves also work well in large pots or planters or they can be planted as an avenue or shrub border. You can easily propagate from stem cuttings.

PLANTING CONSIDERATIONS

Typical use	Garden beds Garden borders Feature tree Nature strip
Foliage	Evergreen (usually)
Flowers	Summer - Autumn
Growth rate	Moderate - Fast
Mature size	height 4m, width 4m
Suitable under powerlines	Yes
Drought tolerance	High
Tolerant of poor soil	Yes
Other features	Suitable for planters Strongly scented



How much sunlight does the location get? *(Check the sunlight requirements of your selected tree match the location)*

Is the location close to a house or structure? *(If so, consider the mature height and spread of tree, also leaf drop for gutters etc)*

How convenient is watering the tree (particularly during its establishment)?

What are the existing conditions of the location? *(Does it drain well, is it exposed to wind, what is the soil like?)*

What are the ideal features you want from this planting? *(Screening, bird attracting, erosion control, windbreak, feature tree etc)*

Are there any particular limitations of the site? *(consider powerlines, underground pipes, animals, available space, movement paths etc)*

Does size matter? What pot size will I plant and how big will the tree grow?



image courtesy Mackay Tree Nursery

Which tree is right for you?

The height, spread and general requirements for trees can vary considerably between different species. The reasons that you want to plant a tree in your garden can also vary - do you want more shade? Or to provide screening? To 'fill' an empty space? Or create a focal point? Or encourage butterflies and bees to your garden?

The trees included in this guide are suited to a range of uses, but before buying a tree it is useful to consider what qualities you want and what the existing conditions are where you want to plant it. Use the prompts above to think which tree will work best for you!

Trees - Top Picks

	Bottlebrush <i>Melaleuca viminalis</i>	Tuckeroo <i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>	Red Bauhinia/ Pegunny <i>Lysiphyllum carronii</i>	Weeping Tea Tree <i>Leptospermum brachyandrum</i>	Golden Penda <i>Xanthostemon chrysanthus</i>	Tulipwood <i>Harpullia pendula</i>	'Revolution Gold'/ Revolution Green' <i>Melaleuca bracteata</i>	Evergreen Frangipani <i>Plumeria obtusata</i>
Anakie	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Bauhinia	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Blackwater	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Bluff	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Capella	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Comet	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓
Dingo	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Duaringa	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓
Emerald	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓
Rolleston	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓
Rubyvale	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Springsure	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Sapphire	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Tieri	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	

Will it grow easily?

All trees require water and a bit of TLC when they are first planted. The table above shows which of the Top Pick species should thrive without much additional water or maintenance after the first year or two. If a species is not ticked for your town this does not necessarily mean it will not grow well there, only that it may require ongoing water, maintenance or have other specific requirements. Check with the nursery to confirm any specific requirements or conditions.



How do I plant a tree?

- 1 Dig a dish-shaped hole 3 - 4 times the volume of the tree pot or container. Make sure the depth accommodates the root ball of the new tree. Set aside the excavated site soil.
- 2 Partially fill the planting hole with water, and allow to drain to confirm adequate drainage and ensure that the sides and base of the hole is loose.
- 3 Removing the tree from its container, tease the roots and install it gently into the prepared hole. Pay careful attention to the tree roots, alignment of the branches, and finished level of the top of the rootball in relation to the surrounding finished ground levels. Trees must be carefully positioned and aligned at the time of planting and should always be upright, even though the rootball (or the site) may be sloping or uneven.
- 4 Mix some fertilizer thoroughly with the excavated soil then carefully backfill the tree planting hole with the site soil in compacted firm layers. Ensure the final soil levels are correct in relation to the top of the root ball which must be now firm and remaining correctly positioned.
- 5 Install surface mulch throughout the tree space, to an average depth of 100mm keeping it clear of the base of the trunk.
- 6 Install 3 stakes in a triangle shape spaced well outside the rootball of the tree. Carefully tie the tree so its trunk is supported ensuring good and sufficient movement of the tree to encourage growth of the tree. The triangle support around the tree will minimise damage to the young tree in storms, or other sudden harsh impacts.
- 7 Gradually apply approximately 30 - 50 litres of water per tree to ensure thorough wetting of the rootball, and soil surrounds. This also enables further settling of all backfilled soil. Top-up with soil and remove any voids as a result

....and finally, stand back and admire the results!



How do I care for my tree?

In the first 3 months after planting, your tree will require a little bit of help while it gets established:

Watering

Newly planted trees should be watered regularly to ensure continuous healthy growth. Aim to give it a good soak twice weekly. In hot dry weather you may need to water more frequently.

Tip: Avoid watering in the heat of the day to reduce evaporation.

Mulch

Check the mulch remains around 100mm deep and is generally clear of the trunk. Mulch helps retain water.

Stakes and Ties

Regularly check and maintain stakes and the triangular ties system.

Tip: Once the tree is established loosen or remove the ties as soon as possible.

Weeds

Carefully remove any weed growth in the mulched surface, and signs of encroaching grass around the perimeter

....After the initial 3 months you can gradually reduce the watering and maintenance. Most trees should be generally self supporting within 6 months (meaning you can remove the stakes) and fully self-sufficient within 2 years or importantly after two dry seasons with general good and continual growth.

Hardy shrubs and groundcovers ... a few suggestions!

Tufting & Grasses:



Dianella revoluta
(Blueberry Lily)



Dietes grandiflora
(Wild Iris)

Native	Non-native
<i>Cymbopogon refractus</i> (Barbed Wire grass)	<i>Allium tuberosum</i> (Flowering Garlic Chives)
<i>Dianella caerulea</i> (Blue Flax Lily)	<i>Cymbopogon citratus</i> (Lemongrass)
<i>Dianella revoluta</i> (Blueberry Lily)	<i>Dietes bicolor</i> * (African Iris)
<i>Imperata cylindrica</i> (Blady Grass) and red form (Japanese Blood Grass)	<i>Dietes grandiflora</i> (Wild Iris)
<i>Lomandra hystrix</i>	<i>Liriope</i> 'Green Giant' & 'Royal Purple'
<i>Lomandra</i> cultivars eg. 'Tanika', 'Katrinus' and 'Savanna Blue' (Mat Rush)	<i>Liriope</i> 'Stripey White'
<i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i> (Swamp Foxtail)	<i>Ophiopogon japonicus</i> (Mondo Grass)
<i>Themeda australis</i> (Kangaroo Grass)	<i>Ophiopogon</i> 'Variegata' #
	<i>Ophiopogon</i> Dwarf

Vines



Lonicera japonica
(Honeysuckle)

Native	Non-native
<i>Hardenburgia violacea</i> * 'Happy Wanderer' (Purple Coral pea)	<i>Lonicera japonica</i> (Honeysuckle)
<i>Hibbertia scandens</i> (Guinea Flower)	<i>Trachelospermum jasminoides</i> (Star Jasmine)
<i>Kennedia rubicunda</i>	<i>Trachelospermum asiaticum</i> 'Flat Mat' (Asiatic Jasmine)
<i>Pandorea jasminoides</i> 'Funky Bellz' (Bower of Beauty)	<i>Trachelospermum</i> 'Tricolour' (Variegated Star Jasmine)
<i>Pandorea pandorana</i> 'Golden Showers' (Wonga Vine)	

Feature Plants



Macrozamia moorei
(Zamia Palm)

Native	Non-native
<i>Pandanus amaryllifolius</i> (Pandanus)	<i>Pandanus amaryllifolius</i> (Pandanus)
<i>Macrozamia moorei</i> (Zamia Palm)	<i>Macrozamia moorei</i> (Zamia Palm)

Low shrubs



Eremophila glabra
'Minganew Gold'



Phyllanthus multiflorus
(Waterfall Plant)

Native	Non-native
<i>Acacia howittii</i> - Prostrate' 'Green Wave' or Dwarf (Sticky Wattle)	<i>Cuphea ignea</i> (Cigar Plant) – various cultivars
<i>Acacia pravissima</i> (Ovens Wattle) Dwarf 'Little Nugget'	<i>Gardenia radicans</i> (Cape Jasmine)
<i>Babingtonia</i> (syn <i>Baeckea/Sannantha</i>) <i>virgata</i> dwarf forms (Heath Myrtle)	<i>Ixora dwarf</i> - 'Sunkist Orange' & 'Red Sunkist'
<i>Eremophila glabra</i> 'Minganew Gold'/'Outback Sunrise' (Groundcover Emu Bush)	<i>Lavendula</i> (Lavendar) – various forms
<i>Evolvulus pilosus</i> 'Sapphire Blue'	<i>Philodendron</i> 'Xanadu'
<i>Gossia inophloia</i> 'Blushing Beauty' (Threadybarked Myrtle)	<i>Phyllanthus multiflorus</i> (Waterfall Plant)
<i>Hibbertia vestita</i> 'Little Rocker'/'Golden Sunburst'	<i>Russelia equisetiformis</i> * (Coral Plant – Orange or Yellow forms)
<i>Leptospermum</i> - dwarf forms eg. 'White Wave', <i>rubrum nana</i> , 'dwarf burgundy'	<i>Salvia rosmarinus</i> (Rosemary) – many cultivars, some flowering
<i>Leucophyta brownii</i> (Cushion Bush)	
<i>Melaleuca</i> (syn <i>Callistemon</i>) 'Little John' & 'Rocky Rambler'	

Spreading Groundcovers



Osteospermum spp
(Cape Daisies)

Native	Non-native
<i>Brachyscome multifida</i> * 'Break of Day', 'Pink' & 'Amethyst' (Cut Leaf Daisy)	<i>Gazania hybrids</i> (African Daisies)
<i>Carpobrotus glaucescens</i> * (Pigface)	<i>Osteospermum spp</i> (Cape Daisies)
<i>Goodenia ovata</i> * 'Gold Cover' or similar	
<i>Myoporum parvifolium</i> (Creeping Boobialla)	

Under Trees



Lomandra 'Pacific Sky'
(Mat Rush)

Native	Non-native
<i>Lomandra 'Pacific Sky'</i> (Mat Rush)	<i>Liriope spicata</i> (Creeping Lilly turf)