



Planting Near Sewers, Drains and Water Mains Guide

Who do I contact?

This brochure is a general guide. Not all structures have been listed in this brochure. Please contact Melbourne Water - Asset Services for further information regarding structure requirements, build-over agreements and conditions. Applications can be posted to:

Postal address:
Asset Services
Melbourne Water Corporation
PO Box 4342 Melbourne Victoria 3001

Email address:
assetservices@melbournewater.com.au

Web Site:
www.melbournewater.com.au

General Melbourne Water Enquiries 131722

Asset Services Enquiries 9235 1414

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Melbourne Water has classified some commonly used plant species that are local to the Melbourne area into three categories reflecting their suitability for planting in pipe reserves or easements.

Quick tip:
For information on underground assets, please call Dial Before You Dig on **1100**

Trees in residential areas
Trees and shrubs have a place in residential areas by creating pleasant environments that provide shade during summer, create colourful landscapes, and screen out neighbours. Trees have many environmental benefits by providing habitat for native animals and insects, and also reduce salinity and soil erosion.

What we sometimes don't consider is the damaging effects tree and shrub root systems can have on nearby buildings and underground utilities. Drains, sewers and water mains can become disrupted, blocked and damaged, sometimes

involving costly repairs and removal. Melbourne Water has produced this guide to assist you in choosing the appropriate planting location for some common tree and shrub species to help reduce damage and blockages to nearby pipes and structures.

From a legal aspect, property owners generally have the right to plant any tree or shrub species in any location within their property. However, they become responsible for any adverse effects caused by their trees or shrubs to nearby buildings, footpaths, pipes, and other structures that may, or may not be within their property boundary.

What do root systems do?
Root systems supply the plant with water and nutrients, essential for the plant to survive and grow. Root systems continue to grow as the tree matures always searching for water and nutrient sources underground. Root systems will often find old and cracked stormwater, sewage, and water mains, as these are perfect food sources. Roots will continue to grow inside these pipes causing blockages and leading to overflows and flooding. The extent of root systems varies between species. This brochure outlines what species are suitable for planting near underground pipes.

What are Root Barriers?
Melbourne Water recommends that any trees or shrubs planted near a structure or asset should be planted with a root barrier. An example of a root barrier is a tough material wrapped around the base of the plant when it is placed in the ground and backfilled. As the plant grows the root system becomes restricted due to the material liner. Contact your local plant nursery regarding root barrier products and information.

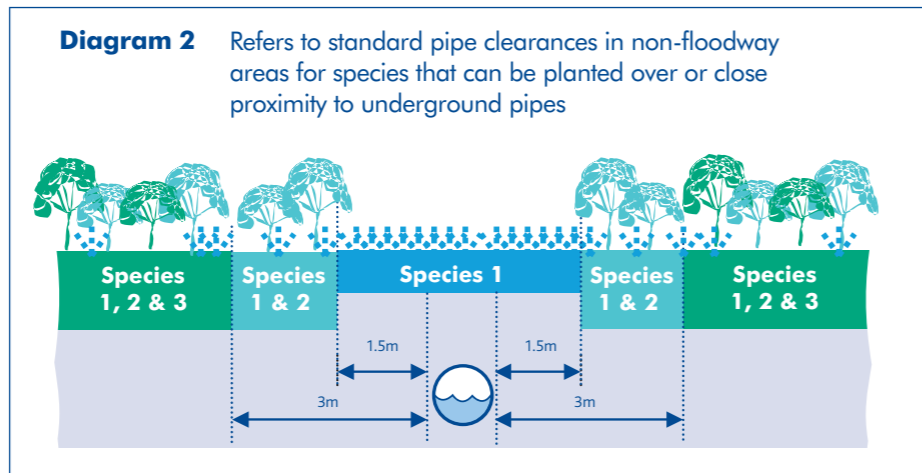
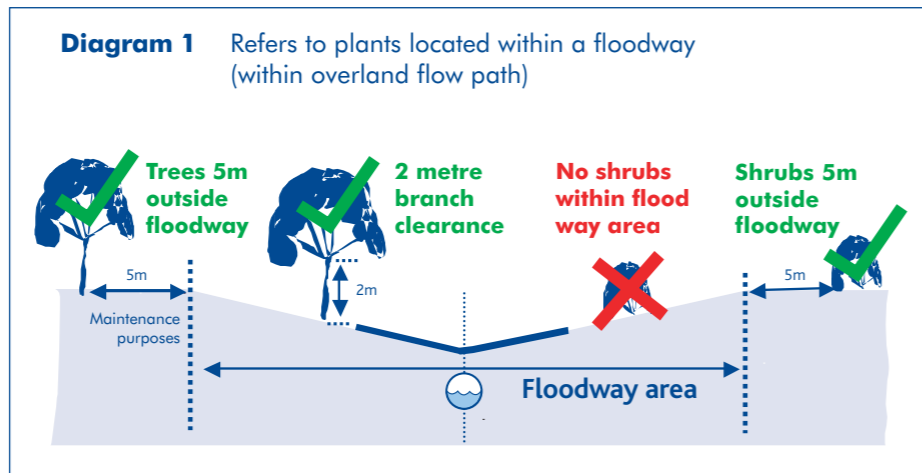
Trees in floodway areas
Care should be taken when selecting tree and shrub species and planting locations within any property. Inappropriate landscaping can obstruct flow resulting in increased flood levels.

Contact Melbourne Water – Land Development for further details as a hydraulic investigation may be required to assess the impact of any proposed planting/ landscaping in floodway areas.

Species suitable for planting on pipe reserves/easements?
Melbourne Water has classified some commonly used plant species that are local to the Melbourne area into three categories reflecting their suitability for planting in pipe reserves or easements.

Please note: This does not preclude the need to obtain other relevant approvals and operation of other legislations, eg: SBO, LSIO.

** Please note these species are only an indication of the type of species that can be planted on pipe reserves/easements and may not be indigenous to your area. For further information regarding this list please contact Land Management on 9235 1599 or for more information regarding species indigenous to your area please contact your local Landcare Group or Council.



SPECIES 1	
Scientific Name	Common Name
Arthropodium strictum	Chocolate Lily
Brachyscome multifida	Cut-leaf Daisy
Bulbine bulbosa	Bulbine Lily
Carex appressa	Tall Sedge
Chrysocephalum apiculatum	Common Everlasting
Dianella longifolia	Pale Flax-lily
Dichondra repens	Kidney Weed
Kennedia prostrata	Running Postman
Lomandra longifolia	Spiny-headed mat rush
Poa labillardieri	Common Tussock Grass
Stylidium graminifolium	Grass Trigger Plant
Themeda trianda	Kangaroo Grass

SPECIES 2	
Scientific Name	Common Name
Acacia acinacea	Gold Dust Wattle
Correa glabra	Rock Correa
Correa reflexa	Common Correa
Daviesia leptophylla	Narrow leaf bitter-pea
Dilwynia glaberrima	Small leaf parrot-pea
Epacris impressa	Common Heath
Goodenia ovata	Hop Goodenia
Hakea ulcina	Furze Hakea
Hibbertia obtusifolia	Showy Guinea Flower
Hovea linearis	Common Hovea
Indigofera australis	Austral indigo
Olearia argophylla	Musk Daisy Bush
Ozothamnus obcordatus	Grey Everlasting
Pultenaea gunnii	Golden Bush Pea

SPECIES 3	
Scientific Name	Common Name
Acacia myrtifolia	Myrtle Wattle
Acacia paradoxa	Hedge Wattle
Bursaria spinosa	Sweet Bursaria
Cassina arcuata	Drooping Cassina
Cassina aculeata	Dogwood
Coprosma quadrifida	Prickly Current-bush
Hakea nodosa	Yellow Hakea
Hymenanthera dentata	Tree Violet
Olearia lirata	Snow Daisy Bush
Ozothamnus ferrugineus	Tree Everlasting
Pultenaea daphnoides	Large-leaf Bush Pea
Solanum aviculare	Kangaroo Apple
Spyrideum parvifolium	Dusty Miller
Viminaria juncea	Golden Spray