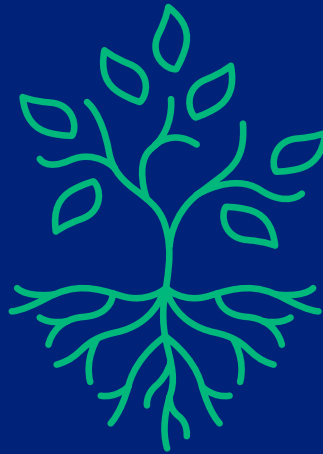


# Prevent pipe damage from tree roots



## A growing problem

### Trees versus pipes

Believe it or not, tree roots are responsible for the majority of Melbourne's sewer and drain blockages. This happens mostly at residential properties, but tree roots can also damage buildings, footpaths, fences and water pipes.

Tree roots seek out water, and will find their way into water pipes and sewer pipes to get to it. Once a tree root has got into a pipe, they can spread long distances and grow into a big mass causing blockages, leaks, and damage.

For property owners, who are responsible for the pipes and plumbing fixtures up to the connection with South East Water's sewer branch, a blocked or damaged pipe can be costly and messy to fix.

So when it comes to planting trees on your property, it helps to know which varieties you might want to avoid.

### What you should know

Before planting a tree, contact [Before You Dig Australia \(BYDA\)](#) for a free report on the location of different underground pipes and cables in your area. And get in touch with us to purchase a property sewerage plan which will show you where the sewerage pipes are on your property.

If you're wanting to plant a tree in the nature strip, you need to first gain permission from your local council, and then contact [BYDA](#).

You may also want to reach out to your local nursery for advice. They should be able to help you with choosing the right tree or shrub to work in the space you have available, while avoiding those that may affect pipes, power lines, fencing, paving or drains, both now and when the tree is fully matured.

There are no hard and fast rules, however the following pages list some tree varieties to avoid planting within 2 and 3.5 metres of pipes to help prevent future damage and blockages.



## Problem plant varieties to avoid within 2 metres of pipes

Please note that this list is intended as a helpful guide but does not claim to be comprehensive. If any plant on your property interferes with our water or sewer main we have the legal right to remove it under the *Water Act 1989*.

### AVOID PLANTING THESE VARIETIES WITHIN 2 METRES OF PIPES

Apple tree

Australian indigo

Banksia: red, Caley's, hill, Dryandra leaved, heath-leaved, bull, hooker's, coast, nodding, desert, round-fruited

Bottlebrush: swamp, gravel, prickly, Captain Cook, crimson, Gawler hybrid, kings park, lilac, SA red, lemon, fiery, green, stiff-leaved, willow, Albany, needle or bearded, weeping, goldfields

Bower plant

Broad-leaf sea urchin

Broombush

Bush germander

Bushy cherry

Cabbage tree (giant dracaena)

Cassia

Ceanothus

Chinese or golden abelia

Claw flower

Common escallonia

Creeping coprosma

Cutleaf hibbertia

Cypress: Swan River

Dusty Miller (*Centourea Cineraria*)

Emu bush: magenta, spreading, spotted, twin-leaf (weeooka), white (flowering lignum), silvery, common (tar bush)

Evergreen oleaster

Evergreen spindle

Feather flowers

Fiddlewood

Fire flower

Firethorn: lalande, Nepal, yellow-berry

Florida yellow-trumpet

Flowering: crabapple, almonds, plums, apricots, cherries, peaches

Gardenia

Geraldton wax

Golden grey mulga

Golden rain tree

Golden stalk

Golden tip

Grampians thryptomene

Grass tree

Grevillea: cat's claw, silver-leaved, rough, fern-leaved, flame, smooth, toothbrush, prickly, lavender, desert, rosemary, royal

Grey mulga

Gum: SA cup, Diels, red-capped, Lindsay, fuschia, rose, weeping, pear-fruited

Gungurru

Hakea: oval-leaved, pincushion, Mueller's, grass-leaved, yellow, Christmas, beaked, willow, furrowed, furze, wavy-leaved, bottle brush

Hawthorn: Lavalley, May tree, Chinese, pink india

Hibiscus

Hillock bush

Himalayan cotoneaster

Hoary blue bush

Honeysuckle

Hopbush: narrow-leaved, sticky (Ake Ake)

Jacaranda

Judas tree

Kangaroo thorn

Karo

Large-leaf bush pea

## AVOID PLANTING THESE VARIETIES WITHIN 2 METRES OF PIPES

Laurustinus

Lilac chaste tree

Lily pillly: blue lily pillly

Limestone fuchsia

Mallee: square-fruited, Southern Cross, SA coastal, tail sand, slender-leaved, curly, course-leaved, kruse's, round-leaved, bell-fruited, Ooldea, Kingscote, red (morel), four-winged, Webster's

Mirror bush

Murchison claw flower

Myrtle: juniper, snow, fringe, lemon-scented, mauve crepe, pink crepe, mallee honey, cross-leaved honey, upright cross-leaved honey, granite honey, scarlet honey, slender honey, yellow-flowered grey honey, western honey, limestone honey, graceful honey, rough honey, Steedman's honey, thyme honey, broombush honey, Wilson's honey

Native apricot (weeping pittosporum)

Needle bush

Net bush: rough-leaved, crimson, wooly

New Zealand Kohuhu

Ngaio

Nitre bush

Oleander

Orange browallia (marmalade bush)

Orchid tree (bauhinia)

Pineapple guava

Pink rice flower (dark and light pink)

Pink velvet bush

Queensland poplar (bleeding heart tree)

Red parrot pea

Red templetonia (cockie's tongues)

Robin redbreast bush

Rock rose: laurel-leaved rock rose

Rose of the west (mottlecach)

Rosemary

Saltbush: coast, old man, silver, berry

Scarlet kunzea

September bush

Showy: dryandra, groundsel

Silver marlock (tallerack)

Silver tree

Sky flower (duranta)

Slaty sheoak

Slender myoporum (weeping boobialla)

Slender velvet bush

Spanish broom

Spirea

Sturt's desert rose

Swamp mallet

Swan River pea bush

Tea tree: green, tantoon, Victoria coastal, silky, round-leaved, New Zealand

Teddy bear bush

Thorn: Washington, Mexican

Tree aloe

Turkey bush

Veronica

Violet mist flower

Wattle: gold dust, sandhill, boxleaf, wallowa, thorn, knife-leaved, WA coastal, drummond, gossamer, gland, hairy pod, flat, hakea, sticky, Flinders Range, umbrella brush, sallow, Menzel's, notable, Queensland silver, golden, nealie, needle bush, silver, round-leaved, hard-leaf, SA coastal, Mudgee, spiny, hindmarsh, varnish, hairy, elegant or bramble, dwarf nealie

Western myall

White cloud tree

Wilga

Winged yellow-trumpet

Yellow kangaroo paw

Yellow kowhai

## Problem plant varieties to avoid within 3.5 metres of pipes

Please note that this list is intended as a helpful guide but does not claim to be comprehensive. If any plant on your property interferes with our water or sewer main we have the legal right to remove it under the *Water Act 1989*.

### AVOID PLANTING THESE VARIETIES WITHIN 3.5 METRES OF PIPES

Alder: Italian, English, black, evergreen

American hackberry

Ash: golden, manna, velvet or Arizona, mountain, Rowan

Bangalow palm

Banksia: Ashby's, bird's nest, burdett's, silver, firewood, water, orange, acorn, saw, showy

Barberry

Blackbutt: Cleland's, Dundas, Kondinin, Le Souef's

Blackwood

Boobialla

Bottlebrush: scarlet

Box: long-leaved, river, mallee, silver, brush, elder, broad-leaved

Brush cherry

Carob tree

Chestnut: cape, Spanish

Chinese elm

Chinese pistachio

Chinese tallow tree

Chinese wisteria

Coolibah: smooth-barked

Cotoneaster; silver leaf cotoneaster

Cypress: white, sand or Bribie Island, black, slender, shrub, Arizona

Dry land tea tree

Dundas mahogany

Emu bush: Bignonia, Eurah, Berrigam, long-leaf

Fiddlewood

Fig: creeping, variegated rusty

Firethorn

Flame tree

Flowering: almond, pear, tamarisk

Gimlet: silver, two-winged

Gilga

Glossy privet

Grape vines (including glory vine)

Gum: Burdett, WA coastal, Kangaroo Island narrow-leaved, SA coastal, pink, WA scarlet flowering gum, fuchsia, brushy blue, rough barked ribbon, Port Lincoln, pink flowering blue, large-fruited SA blue, nodding, silver-leaved mountain, gimlet, Wallangarra white, willow, Steedman's, yellow-flowering, hybrid coral, Coolgardie, lemon-flowering, sweet gum, water (Kanooka), white

Gungurru

Hakea: sweet

Hibiscus: desert rose (red-centred), native, lilac

Holm oak

Honey locust

Hybrid flame tree

Indian coral tree

Irish strawberry

Ironbark: narrow-leaved, red-flowered red

Jacaranda

Japanese privet

Jerusalem thorn

Judas tree

Juniper

Kaffir plum

Kurrajong: desert

Laburnum

Laurel: Brisbane, Queensland

Liquidambar

Maidenhair tree

Mallee: Kangaroo Island, white, desert, brown, Victoria desert, rough fruited, silver mallee apple, white, Dumosa, Kingsmill, grey, red, thick-leaved, Ravensthorpe, box, swamp, fluted horn, green

## AVOID PLANTING THESE VARIETIES WITHIN 3.5 METRES OF PIPES

Marlock: limestone, long-flowered, black

Mealy stringybark (argyle)

Mississippi sugarberry

Mock orange

Moort: round-leaved

Morrel (Boongul)

Mulga

Myrtle: dwarf or scrub apple, smooth-barked apple, olive-leaved honey, alternate-leaved honey, bracelet honey, Diosma-leaved honey, Chenile honey, flax-leaved honey, common, WA willow (peppermint tree)

New Zealand Christmas tree

New Zealand laurel

Oak: black

Octopus / umbrella tree or Australian ivy palm

Oleander

Pagoda tree

Paperbark: swamp, SA swamp, broad-leaved

Pine: Port Jackson, Swiss mountain, mountain, brown, plum

Pink Marri

Pittosporum: sweet, variegated

Powder bark

Prickly paperbark

Pyramid tree

Queensland bean or ebony tree

Queensland lace bark

River cooba

Salt or Sargent's Mallett

Sheoak: weeping, drooping, rose

Silk tree

Silver birch

Silver peppermint

Small leaf linden

Southern hackberry

Spring bloodwood

Sweet bursaria (Christmas box)

Sycamore

Sydney red gum

Tulip tree

Varnish tree

Waddy

Walnut

Water bush

Wattle: Wallangarra, raspberry jam, Cootamundra, orange, silver, queen, green, fringed, Oswald's, Broughton willow or wattle, cedar

White cedar

White wood

Woolum (native frangipani)

Yate: bushy, warty

Yorrell

### How to get in touch

**Report a leak or check water interruptions**  
[mysupport.southeastwater.com.au/LIVE](https://mysupport.southeastwater.com.au/LIVE)

**Faults and emergencies** 13 28 12 (24hrs)

**Account enquiries** 13 18 51 (8am – 6pm, Mon – Fri)

**TTY users** 13 36 77 (ask for 13 18 51)

**Follow us on social for updates**



[southeastwater.com.au](https://southeastwater.com.au)

### Need an interpreter?

إذا كنت تحتاج مترجم، اتصل بالرقم 03 9209 0130

如需口译服务，敬请拨打：03 9209 0130

如需口译服务，敬請撥打：03 9209 0130

Εάν χρειάζεστε διερμηνεία, επικοινωνήστε με το 03 9209 0130

Jika Anda membutuhkan seorang juru bahasa, telepon 03 9209 0130

통역사가 필요하시면 03 9209 0130 으로 연락하세요

Если вам нужен переводчик, позвоните по номеру 03 9209 0130

Si necesita un intérprete, contacte: 03 9209 0130

Nếu cần thông dịch viên, hãy gọi số 03 9209 0130