

Trees

For Small Gardens

CARE GUIDE





Even the smallest of gardens can enjoy the luxury of a shady tree. It will attract birds and other small wildlife to your garden. Trees act as a buffer from noisy roads, filter out dust and have a cooling effect on the garden and house. Trees are also aesthetically pleasing and provide us with a shady refuge from the heat of the sun.

- ### QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN CHOOSING YOUR TREE

 1. What is the maximum **height and spread** the tree will reach?
 2. Does it have a naturally upright or spreading **habit**?
 3. Is the **root system** invasive or not, i.e. can it be planted near pavers, walls or the pool?
 4. Does the tree offer **seasonal interest** e.g. flowers, autumn foliage or a striking silhouette?
 5. Is it an **evergreen** tree (permanent shade) or a **deciduous** tree, (more sunshine in winter, but it can be messy)?
 6. Is it suited for **local** growing **conditions**, i.e. temperature, rainfall and soil?
 7. Is it a tree that is **fast** growing or are you prepared to wait a bit longer for a **slower** growing tree to mature?
 8. Do you prefer **indigenous** or **exotic** trees? Many estates and complexes uphold a 'strictly indigenous' policy.
 9. Will the tree impact on your **neighbours** as far as shade or fallen leaves and fruit goes?

HOW TO PLANT YOUR TREE

Step 1

- Select the right place for your tree and clear the area of weeds and lawn. Even small trees should be planted at least 1m away from walls and foundations.
- Dig a hole slightly deeper and twice the diameter of the bag or pot the tree is in. Loosen the soil at the bottom of the hole.
- Fill the hole with water to check drainage and to soften the soil.
- Divide the dugout soil into two equal heaps on either side of the hole.



Step 2



- To the left-hand heap, add the same amount in good compost, as well as a handful of bonemeal or vermicast and organic 2:3:2 fertiliser.
 - Gently remove the tree from the bag or pot and remove the nursery stake.
 - Place the tree in the hole to check that the soil level of the tree is level with the top of the hole. If it sits too low, add a bit of the soil to lift the tree.
 - Ensure the tree is straight and centered.
- Add stakes if necessary. Place new stakes on either side of the tree, avoiding the root ball. Secure the stakes to the tree with rubber tree ties in a figure 8 to providing allowance for movement.

Step 3

- Fill the hole with the remaining soil mixture from the left-hand heap. Compact the soil around the tree.
- Use the soil from the right-hand heap to create a berm or basin around the tree.
- Water gently and deeply.
- Mulch the basin (± 10 cm thick), keeping mulch away from the stem of the tree.



RECOMMENDED TREES FOR

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE
Acer palmatum	Japanese Maple	5 x 3m
Apodytes dimidiata	White Pear	5 x 4m
Arbutus unedo	Strawberry Tree	5 x 4m
Betula pendula	Silver Birch	8 x 4m
Bolusanthus speciosus	Tree Wisteria	4 x 3m
Buddleja saligna	False Olive	5 x 3m
Calpurnia aurea	Wild Laburnum	3 x 3m
Combretum krausii	Forest Bushwillow	7 x 4m
Dais cotinifolia	Pompon Tree	6 x 4m
Dombeya rotundifolia	Wild Pear	5 x 3m
Halleria lucida	Tree Fuchsia	4 x 3m
Heteropyxis natalensis	Lavender Tree	6 x 5m
Indigofera jucunda	River Indigo	3 x 3m
Kiggelaria africana	Wild Peach	8 x 6m
Lagerstroemia indica	Pride of India	5 x 3m
Loxostylis alata	Tarwood	4 x 3m
Malus floribunda	Japanese Flowering Crab Apple	4 x 3m
Magnolia grandiflora 'Little Gem'	Little Gem Magnolia	5 x 3m
Melaleuca bracteata	Golden Melaleuca	6 x 4m
Mundulea sericea	Cork Bush	3 x 2m
Nuxia floribunda	Forest Elder	7 x 4m
Ochna pulchra	Peeling Plane	5 x 3m
Olea europaea subsp. africana	Wild Olive (contain)	6 x 5m
Peltophorum africanum	Weeping Wattle	8 x 5m
Pittosporum viridiflorum	Cheesewood	5 x 4m
Prunus serrulata	Japanese Flowering Cherry	5 x 3m
Searsia (Rhus) leptodictya	Mountain Karee	4 x 4m
Searsia (Rhus) pendulina	White Karee	7 x 5m
Vepris undulata	White Ironwood	7 x 5m
Ziziphus mucronata	Buffalo Thorn	4 x 3m



Apodytes dimidiata



Calpurnia aurea



Kiggelaria africana



Nuxia floribunda

SMALL GARDENS

CHARACTERISTICS											
											
											
											
											
											
											
											
											
											
											
											
											
											
											
											
											
											
											
											
											
											
											
											
											
											
											
											
											

SYMBOLS	
	Full sun
	Sun/semi-shade
	Evergreen
	Deciduous
	Semi-deciduous
	Hardy
	Semi-hardy
	Indigenous
	Flowers
	Attracts Birds
	Attracts Butterflies
	Attracts Bees
	Autumn colour
	Fruit
	Fragrant
	Fast growing
	Medium growing
	Slow growing



Halleria lucida



Combretum krausii



Heteropyxis natalensis



Indigofera jucunda



Acer palmatum



Pittosporum viridiflorum



Dais cotinifolia



Searsia pendulina



TAKING CARE OF YOUR TREE

- ♥ Keep your young tree moist, but not waterlogged, especially during the first 2 years. Maintain the basin around the tree.
- ♥ Always water thoroughly and deeply to encourage deep, strong root growth.
- ♥ Replenish the mulch layer regularly.
- ♥ Feed with an organic 2:3:2 or 5:1:5 fertiliser at the beginning of spring and every three months subsequently until the end of the growing season.
- ♥ Prune your tree lightly during the first 2 years to create the shape you want. Cut water shoots from the base of the tree when they appear.
- ♥ Check and adjust the stakes and ties regularly to ensure the tree has room to move. Remove when the tree is strong enough to withstand strong winds.
- ♥ Enjoy your tree, hug it if you want, spend time around it and bask in its beauty, tranquility and shade.



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