



TOP 10 TREES

Recommended by Greater Geraldton
locals 'in the know'

TOP TREE TIPS



About Million Trees

In early 2010 the City of Greater Geraldton held a series of World Cafés (chats with community members) and asked locals what they liked about the place they called home, what they didn't want to lose as the City grows, and what would make it an even better place to live by 2029 and beyond.

The number one answer was that the community wanted a sustainable environment and more trees planted.

Million Trees is the flagship 2029 and Beyond project. 2029 and Beyond is about collaborative planning for the future of the Greater Geraldton region. It's up to the community to help turn the Million Trees plan into action!

Get involved!

facebook:  'Like' Million Trees Geraldton

phone: Project Officer 9956 6600

email: milliontrees@cgg.wa.gov.au

web: www.2029andbeyond.com.au find Million Trees project

address: City of Greater Geraldton Civic Centre, Cathedral Ave



Top Ten Trees

The City of Greater Geraldton asked Million Trees 'challenge leaders' and others knowledgeable in the field of trees, for their Top Ten Trees and Top Tree Tips.

Suggested Top Trees (and tall shrubs) and Tips were refined and further adapted to local conditions by well-regarded permaculture and botany experts, Julie Firth from Drylands Permaculture Nursery, and Jenna Brooker, with support from the City's Environmental Sustainability Team.

The following publication (borrowed from the Geraldton Regional Library) was also referred to in compiling Top Ten Trees:

Peate, N. 2006. Grow what where: over 3,000 Australian native plants for every situation, special use and problem area, Bloomings Books, Melbourne.

Top Ten Trees helps people who live in the Greater Geraldton region to make smart planting decisions.

**Planting a million well-selected trees
that survive and thrive
is in the community's hands.**

Symbols



Front-line Coastal

tolerates direct salt spray and salt-laden winds



Second-line Coastal

tolerates some degree of salt exposure, but needs front-line protection



Inland

areas not exposed to sea salt spray, salt-laden winds, or salt-soil



Local Native

a very wise choice—called local provenance



WA Native

second best choice—native to our State



Exotic

originates from another country



Attracts Birds

which pollinate, eat unwanted insects, and/or feed on tree seeds



Shade

trees are cool for you and your pooch!



Fast Growing

good for quickly establishing screening while slower trees catch up



Street Tree

good for growing on verges. First check the City's Street Tree specifications



Beauty

wow-factor



Wind Breaking

good trees for diffusing wind and creating a calmer environment



Fruit Bearing

grows fruit you can eat



Hedges

plants with foliage to the ground that you can clip into shape



Container Plant

will grow in a pot



Tree heights are approximate for the region and will vary according to how well the tree's needs are being met

Soil pH Match



Acidic

Neutral

Alkaline

1

Illyarrie

Eucalyptus erythrocorys



photo: Chris Spiker



Notes on its features

- Attracts honeyeater, insect eater and seed eater birds
- Displays striking yellow flowers in the summer

Conditions and Care

- Likes full sun
- For elegant weeping wind protection: plant a few Illyarries side by side and let them develop naturally
- For a bushy look or a straight-trunked small tree: prune to shape

Soil matters

- Very tolerant of lime and alkaline conditions
- Prefers sand, but can tolerate red brown clay or loam

Likes soil pH 6.5 to 8

5 5.5 6 6.5 7 7.5 8 8.5 9

2

Rottnest Tea Tree

Melaleuca lanceolata

3m* up to 7m**



Notes on its features

- Considered to be a very under-rated tree which can be pruned to create different effects
- Grows at a moderately fast rate in this region
- Attracts honeyeater and insect eater birds
- Binds sand

Conditions and care

- Likes sun, shade, dry or moist
- Shape it from the start to be a single-stemmed tree or let it develop naturally into a multi-stemmed shrub

Soil matters

- Likes most soil types, including limestone
- Moderately salt-soil tolerant

Likes soil pH 6.5 to 8

5 5.5 6 6.5 7 7.5 8 8.5 9

* In exposed coast

** In valleys with water

3

Chenille honey myrtle

Melaleuca huegelii



3m

Notes on its features

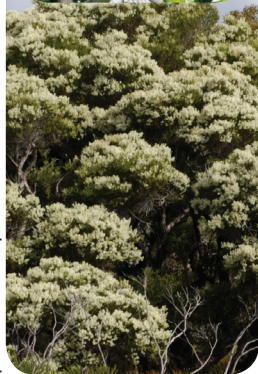
- Native of Cape Burney
- Attracts honeyeater and insect eater birds
- Scented pink, white, pink/purple flowers in the spring and summer
- Binds sand

Conditions and care

- Likes full sun
- Can tolerate some salt-spray

Soil matters

- Likes free draining soils, sand or gravel
- Very lime tolerant
- A good match with alkaline and neutral soils



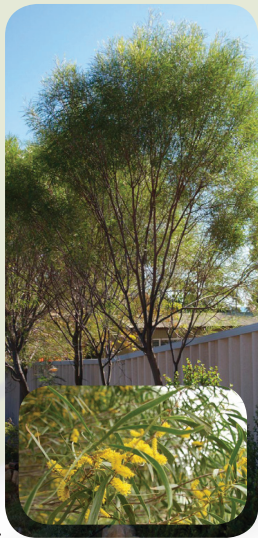
photos: Chris Spiker

Like soil pH 7.5 to 8.5

5 5.5 6 6.5 7 7.5 8 8.5 9

4 Jam tree

Acacia acuminata



photos: Erin O'Connor, inset: Julie Firth



Notes on its features

- Wonderful shade tree for bench seats and table settings
- Attracts honeyeater, insect eater and seed eater birds and butterflies
- Ask your local nursery about its different forms

Conditions and care

- Likes full sun

Soil matters

- Not fussy about soil but performs best on heavy soil (clay or loam)
- Likes soil acidic or neutral
- Moderately lime and salt-soil tolerant

Likes soil pH 6.5 to 7.5

5 5.5 6 6.5 7 7.5 8 8.5 9

5

Geraldton wax

Chamaelaucium uncinatum

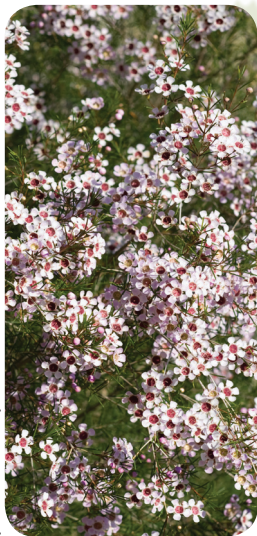


photo: Chris Spiker



Notes on its features

- Well known for its lovely cut flowers and floral art
- Attracts honeyeater and insect eater birds
- Binds sand
- Get a copy of the Mid West Heritage Series booklet *Geraldton's Wildflower: the Wax* from the Geraldton Regional Library

Conditions and care

- Likes full sun
- To shape or hedge: prune heavily after flowering
- For a large bushy shrub: don't prune

Soil matters

- Likes well-drained, sandy soil
- Most varieties, including the Geraldton form, grow naturally in acidic through to neutral sands
- If your soil is alkaline, ask your nursery if they have alkaline-adapted waxes

Likes soil pH 5.5 to 7

5 **5.5** 6 6.5 7 7.5 8 8.5 9

6 Olive Leaved Grevillea

Grevillea olivacea



3m-4m



Notes on its features

- Yellow, orange or red spring and winter flowering
- Attracts honeyeater birds

Conditions and care

- Likes full to partial sun
- Tolerates salt-spray
- Keep pruned
- Hedge for privacy

Soil matters

- Likes sand, loam, gravel or clay
- Moderately lime tolerant

Likes soil pH 6.0 to 8.5

5.5 6 6.5 5 7.5 8 8.5 9

7

Coral gum

Eucalyptus torquata

3m–5m

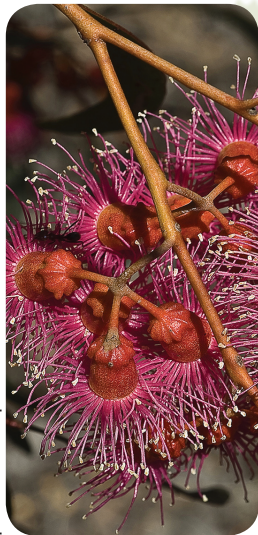


photo: Chris Spiker



Notes on its features

- Native to the Goldfields
- Interesting buds (like earrings) with apricot pink flowers from August to December
- A popular subject for floral artists
- Attracts honeyeater, insect eater and seed eater birds

Conditions and care

- Likes full to partial sun
- As a street-tree fits under power lines (first check the City's Street Tree Specifications)

Soil matters

- Prefers red soils but tolerates gravel and sand
- Very lime and alkaline tolerant
- Salt water and salt-soil tolerant

Likes soil pH 6.0 to 8.5



8 Poinciana

Delonix regia



photo: Chris Spiker

Likes soil pH 6.5 to 9



Notes on its features

- An exotic beauty from Madagascar
- Semi-deciduous
- For a spectacular orange and lemon burst of flower plant it next to a Golden Shower *Cassia fistula*

Conditions and care

- Likes full to partial sun
- Water to encourage and establish flowering
- If planted in sand, supplement with trace elements
- Plant on the north of the house for wonderful summer leafy shade and winter warmth through bare branches
- To encourage a high crown, prune lower branches to remove width

Soil matters

- Grows in every soil type
- Prefers neutral but can tolerate alkaline pH up to 9

9 Mulberry

Morus rubra



Notes on its features

- Deciduous
- Wind tolerant

Conditions and care

- Likes full to partial sun
- Roots can travel a long way to get moisture and will compete with other well watered plots
- Fruit needs regular picking so plant it somewhere you will see it
- Chickens love to clean up fallen fruit

Soil matters

- Suits all soil types
- Prefers neutral to alkaline pH but tolerates slightly acidic soil

Likes soil pH 6.0 to 8.5



10 Pomegranate

Punica granatum



Likes soil pH 6.5 to 8.5

5 5.5 6 6.5 7 7.5 8 8.5 9



Notes on its features

- Originates from Afghanistan and Persia—what is now Iran
- Attractive red fruit bearing tree
- Deciduous
- Find tasty pomegranate recipes in trendy cookbooks

Conditions and care

- Prune in late winter for hedging
- Quite drought tolerant but needs water and food to fruit

Note to self

- Likes full to partial sun
- Grows in any soil type
- Prefers alkaline but is tolerant of slightly acidic pH

On the ground

Step-by-step planting guide

1. Find a good spot for your tree (remember it will grow upwards and outwards)
2. Identify your soil type:
 - check Million Trees Soil Map
 - Test soil yourself to be sure (simple pH kits are available from hardware stores or nurseries)
3. If your soil is hard, moisten it to make digging easier
4. Dig a hole bigger than the root mass of your plant
5. Water the plant well in the pot, hit the top rim of the pot with a hand spade and the plant should pop up*, turn it upside down, hold the trunk between your fingers and carefully remove the plant, tickle out the roots, and straighten roots if they're spiralling
6. Secure the plant in the lower point of the soil basin that you create around the plant
7. Water it well
8. Monitor watering needs closely as it establishes

*if the plant is root bound in the pot and it doesn't pop up squeeze the sides of the pot as you roll it around



Tips for all ten

1. Keep trees away from leach drains: apply this rule of thumb—tree roots run 1.5 times its height
2. Water all Top Trees for the first year. Keep watering your Poinciana over its lifetime
3. Choose native plants grown from local seed where you can—they're acclimatised
4. Start planting after the first winter rains

Companion resources

1. Million Trees Soil Map: Right soil + Right tree = Compatibility!
2. NACC Native Garden Guides for more tips on Top Trees 1 to 5 plus other great selections (inland and coastal)
3. Local nurseries: Ask for their advice



Find these and more resources here.
www.2029andbeyond.com.au




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