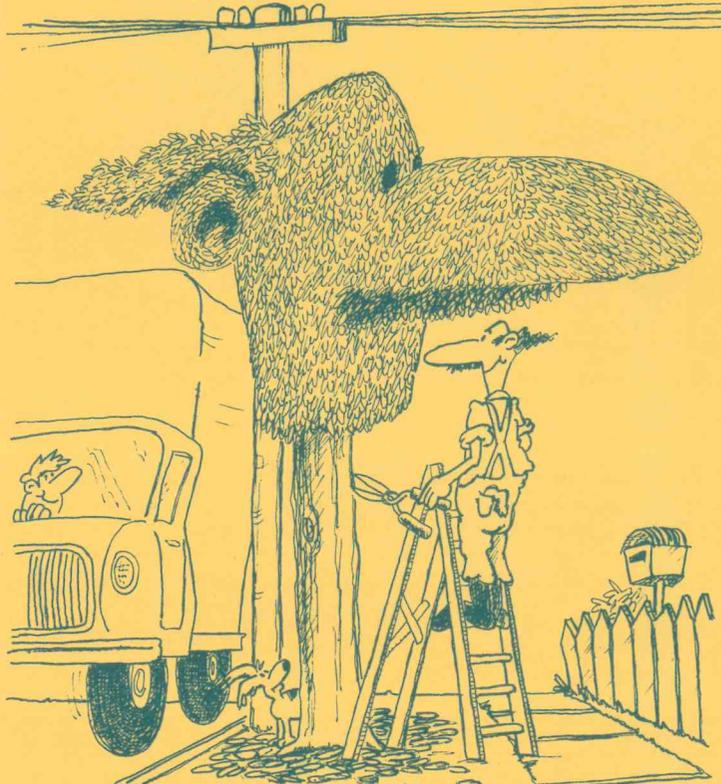


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Department of Biodiversity,
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The ideal street tree



Old street trees are often legacies (or liabilities) of days when big was beautiful. Local authorities generally recognise that smaller trees should be planted. The life expectancy of street trees is greatly reduced by the harsh conditions under which they grow.

* Help your local council care for the tree outside your house.

Forests Department of Western Australia

Species selection

A little thought saves a lot of trouble

Ask your nurseryman or urban forester for help in choosing the right tree for the job. There are specialist trees for winter sun and summer shade, broad-leaf varieties for poolside, flowering gums for birds and bees.

* The list of trees suitable for backyards is endless.



Urban forestry trees in your backyard



Planting a big tree on your boundary usually means that your neighbours are shaded as much or more than you. That's fine if they want it, but they may not like leaves in their pool or shade on their solar heater and vegie garden.

* Plant a small bushy tree or a grove of little trees in preference to tall timbers.

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The New Block

Retaining a big old tree on a new block and building your house around it is a romantic notion. More often than not the tree suffers root or trunk damage during building and is starting to die as you move into your new house.

Remove or lop trees before building and plant new ones; it's safer and cheaper.

Forests Department of Western Australia

How to kill with concrete and fill

Soil fill, concrete house rafts or driveways around the base of a tree or over the very important surface feeder roots almost always lead to the decline of a tree. These roots become compacted and may be deprived of moisture and the tree slowly starves to death.

* Consider a tree's well-being before beginning any excavation.

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Don't lose your services

Many species (especially the fig family) are unsuitable for planting in suburban lots. They may block sewer lines, raise foundations and driveways, strangle water and telephone lines.

Choose the right trees for the job.

