RECOMMENDED SHADE TREES FOR DARWIN

City of Darwin is committed to expanding and enhancing Darwin's urban forest through our Greening Darwin Strategy. A key action within the strategy is to plant more shade trees across our parks, reserves and community spaces, and we encourage residents to do the same in their gardens.

On the back of this flyer, we've provided a table of recommended shade trees for Darwin gardens based on a local study by researchers at Charles Darwin University. The table includes important attributes to consider when selecting trees and features only Northern Territory native species. Native species provide optimal habitat for wildlife and are well-suited to Darwin's climate, with monsoon forest species providing the densest shade.

Once you've selected your preferred shade tree species, we recommend the following to enhance their cooling effects:

planting trees in clusters, with individual trees several metres apart, to create a continuous canopy

 using a variety of species to provide year-round food and habitat for native wildlife.

To find out more, visit darwin.nt.gov.au/shade-trees



TREE SPECIES	COMMON NAME	SIZE*	SUITED TO*	OTHER NOTABLE ATTRIBUTES
Very dense shade				
Allosyncarpia ternata	Anbinik, Allosyncarpia	XL	LG	Hardy, tolerant to cyclones
Carallia brachiata	Bush Currant	М	SG	Tolerant to cyclones and wet soils
Diospyros compacta	Australian Ebony	S	SG	Slow growing but hardy
Ganophyllum falcatum	Scaly Ash	М	SG	Tolerant to cyclones
Maranthes corymbosa	White Cloud Tree	L	LG	Tolerant to cyclones, pendulous foliage
Millettia pinnata	Indian Beech	M	SG	Hardy, tolerant to cyclones, highly perfumed flowers
Mimusops elengi	Red Condoo/ Spanish Cherry	M - L	SG	Tolerant to cyclones, rounded canopy
Nauclea orientalis	Leichhardt Tree	L	LG	Semi-deciduous, tolerant to wet soils
Syzygium nervosum	River Apple	L	LG	Tolerant to cyclones, scented leaves, purple fruit
Dense shade				
Alstonia actinophylla	Northern Milkwood	L	LG	Hardy, tolerant to cyclones
Peltophorum pterocarpum	Yellow Flame Tree	L	LG	Deciduous, produces yellow flowers
Syzygium armstrongii	Bush Apple	L	SG	Tolerant to cyclones, produces fruit
Moderately dense shade				
Callitris intratropica	Northern Cypress	М	SG	Hardy but fire sensitive, wood aromatic
Lophostemon lactifluus	Swamp Box	М	SG	Tolerant to wet soils

*KEY

SIZE	HEIGHT
Small (S)	3 - 8 metres
Medium (M)	5 - 12 metres
Large (L)	Up to 20 metres
Extra Large (XL)	Up to 30 metres

LABEL	SUITED TO		
Small to medium gardens (SG)	Suitable for most gardens		
Large gardens (LG)	Larger trees that require more space		

EXAMPLE



Small - Diospyros compacta



Medium - Mimusops elengi



Large - Syzygium nervosum



Extra Large -Allosyncarpia ternata