

## Deciduous Trees

While most of the deciduous trees you see growing around our gardens come from extremely cold parts of the northern hemisphere they are brilliantly successful migrants in W.A.

So many give us deep shade through summer then dazzling autumn foliage colour. .

Deciduous trees near the north or west walls of your home act like a reverse cycle air conditioner. Their shade cools you in summer and bare stems let the warming, winter sunshine in. Many varieties put on a spectacular flower show in early spring, particularly the flowering peaches and plums. Some even have colourful fruits.

Here's a list of varieties that will grow well in the southern half of this state. Late autumn is an ideal time to choose deciduous trees because you can evaluate the colours of the leaves from living specimens rather than relying on books or labels where in many cases the photographs are taken in colder areas where shadings can be more intense.

Potted deciduous trees can be planted out all year round. Prepare the soil with Waldecks Bio-ganic and add a generous amount of blood and bone mix to get the root growth started.

### LARGE FEATURE & SHADE SPECIMEN TREES

The London plane tree (*Platanus x acerifolia*) is a stately, shady tree with attractively dappled bark. It needs plenty of room to grow, reaching 15 metres or more in height. Very resilient and drought tolerant this variety is extensively planted around inner city Perth where it is able to cope with high levels of motor vehicle emissions.

Liquidambar (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) is a well known autumn foliage feature tree. Less well known is it's eventual size of some 15 to 20 metres high and as much as 10 metres wide. It does provide excellent deep summer shade. Autumn colours of yellow, red, orange and purple can be very spectacular. These colours intensify if conditions are particularly cold.

Claret Ash (*Fraxinus 'Raywood'*) is a bushy shade tree to 10 metres high with claret red autumn foliage. A tough, fast growing specimen tree that has a clean, 'classy' look about it. A number of local councils are planting claret ash in median strips. They too can handle car emissions well.

Golden ash (*Fraxinus excelsior 'Aurea'*) is a smaller tree growing to around 4 metres high.

The major attraction is it's lemon-yellow variegated foliage that shows wonderful colour through spring and summer. These colours intensify to deep gold in Autumn.

Golden False Acacia (*Robinia frisia*) is a magnificent recent introduction. A native from America. Robinia grows to a height of 10 metres.

Brilliant, showy, golden foliage. In spring the leaves emerge a light lemon colour then through summer this deepens to yellow, Autumn sees it a glowing rich gold. Frisia makes an eye - catching feature trees with perhaps just one drawback. If the roots are disturbed the understock can send up spiny suckers.

The Pink Wisteria tree (*Robinia 'Decaisniana'*) is another spectacular flowering tree that is well suited to most areas of W.A. south of the tropics. This tough spreading, shade tree puts on a breathtaking spring show of pink wisteria-like flower clusters. It can grow to 10 metres high.

Mop Top Robinia (*Robinia 'Umbraculifera'*) is now one of the most fashionable small trees to have in the garden. Their natural shape is a globe of deep green foliage. As a mature tree it has a spread of 5 metres. Flowers are rarely seen and foliage turns a bright gold in autumn.

The Alders (*Alnus* sp) are wet soil specialists and are often used to drain swampy areas. These fast growing, tough and bushy trees have mostly golden yellow tones through Autumn.

Golden Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos* 'Sunburst' ) grows to a medium size of about 8 metres in maturity. This is a drought, salt water and frost tolerant tree with fine ferny foliage of a bright yellow colour. Flowers are insignificant but highly attractive to bees, a real advantage for fruit growers.

Golden elm (*Ulmus procera* 'vanhoutti') is a very beautiful foliage feature and shade tree. The large deep golden yellow leaves might suggest a weaker growth habit, however, the golden elm is a strong and vigorous performer. You can expect this spreading tree to grow 6 or 8 metres high.

### **SMALL SPECIAL FEATURE TREES.**

Nearly every village in Southern China has it's grove of Chinese tallow trees. These are grown for the oil that is in rich abundance in the fruits. *Sapium sebiferum* is a bushy, fast growing tree to around 4 - 6 metres. Around Perth it fairly glows with colours of gold, orange, red and crimson. This is one of the most spectacular autumn foliage trees available even rivalling the celebrated but toxic rhus tree.

Crab Apples (*Malus* sp.) are ornamental apple trees that have showy flowers and attractive fruit that can be made into an excellent jelly. Their high chilling requirement means that they are suited to a few suburbs of Perth near and in the foothills. Great performers in country areas particularly in the South West..

Crepe Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*) originates in China and Korea where they have to withstand summer heat and extreme winter cold.

Much to offer including a stunning summer flower show, attractive bark & colourful autumn foliage.

Flowering Peaches (*Prunus persica*) come in a range of sizes and flower colours. Miniature peaches are suitable for tub growing as they reach only 1.5 metres in height. In the taller types are two deep red flowering forms, two pale pinks, a white and a variegated red and white flower called *versicolour*. These peaches put on a traffic stopping show in spring.

Flowering plums (*Prunus* sp.) with their dark burgundy or purple summer foliage, plus pink spring flowers are showy small trees that can add a lot of interest to the landscape. The varieties 'Nigra' and 'blireana' are very well suited to metropolitan gardens.

Flowering almonds (*Prunus x amygdalo persica*) have very showy and early Spring blooms. These hardy small trees with their colourful foliage grow and flower well in our climate.

The silver birch (*Betula alba*) is one of the most elegant deciduous trees. It has a tall slender shape and the paper thin leaves tremble in the slightest breeze. Even without foliage the stark white trunk and stems looks attractive. Plant them in clusters of 3 or 5 trees. They do need a cool moist root run or you can find the foliage looking burned and brown from early summer.