Our guide to hardy trees

Adelaide Advanced trees are pleased to provide Landscape architects with a guide to help choose proven plants when landscaping in South Australia.

We have chosen plants that perform well in our dryer climate and look great in landscape situations. Saving water is becoming more important to homeowners and councils than ever before. Coming up with water efficient trees for the garden is a clever choice. There is now a much wider range of water saving natives to choose from when landscaping. There are many popular varieties of native and ornamental drought tolerant trees however certain trees are better suited to specific areas.

This is by no means a comprehensive list of what we grow at the nursery, there would be many trees that we have not mentioned. Please call us if you have any questions on plant suitability for your landscape project.

We also grow trees in Rocket® Pot Container trees to order. And can grow specific provenance trees to your requirements.

Grafted Eucalyptus are a relatively new tree available today. They have become popular because of their guaranteed size and flower colour. Being grafted to Eucalyptus Maculata rootstock allows the trees to be planted in a wider variety of soil types than non grafted or seed grown trees. Grafted Eucalyptus are available in variety of sizes, ranging from 2m at maturity to 10m plus. With today’s modern living, houses are tending to be bigger and gardens smaller, so with the many sizes of grafted Eucalyptus available you can still have a lovely flowering gum in a small courtyard garden, as size is guaranteed.

Part of the beauty of the Grafted Eucalyptus is the orange to red new growth over glossy green foliage, not to mention the wide variety of flower colours available.

Some councils are starting to use some of the medium sized Grafted Eucalyptus as street trees, partly because of their compactness under powerlines, and because of their striking flower colours. Grafted Eucalyptus will offer an exiting addition to any garden or landscape.

Popular varieties include Baby Orange, Baby Scarlet and Wildfire.

Eucalyptus cladocalyx “Vintage Red” - Height: 10-15mt. Vintage Red is a decorative ornamental Australian native tree with stunning red foliage. It is the first red foliaged Eucalypt to be released anywhere in the world. Vintage Red is an excellent feature tree, specimen tree and shade tree. The rootstock selected for Vintage Red to be grafted onto is its parent plant, Eucalyptus cladocalyx.
Allocasuarina verticillata—Common name: Drooping She-Oak. Height: 5-10mt.
Habit: A slender round headed tree with an erect trunk and pendulous foliage. Foliage: Evergreen. Long pendulous branches of grey green foliage (often attractive to cattle and is sometimes planted as a fodder tree). Culture & Use: An attractive small tree that is tolerant of a wide range of conditions from dry sandy soils to heavy clays. A. verticillata will tolerate coastal salt spray, heat and cold. Once established requires minimal irrigation. Minimum natural rainfall 400-900mm.

Habit: A stately tree with pink to red bark and open intricately branched canopy. Foliage: Evergreen. Young leaves bright red turning mid green with age, 10-15cm long, 2-3cm wide, oppositely attached. Culture & Use: An excellent tree for streetscapes, parks and large gardens. Minimum natural rainfall 500mm. Will not tolerate waterlogged soils but will thrive on sites with sandy soils, will perform well in coastal situations. A. costata is frost tender and should be protected from cold winds and branches will peel in spring exposing new pink bark beneath creating an attractive pattern. Kino can be extruded freely on sites with sandy soils, will perform well in coastal situations. A. costata may not perform as well in soils high in clay particles.

Habit: A tree with a single erect trunk and upright habit. Foliage: Evergreen. Smooth leaves 8-12cm long and 2-3cm wide, shiny dark green on the top surface, and silver below dull and finely hairy. Culture & Use: B integrifolia makes a great decorative shelter tree for parks, gardens and golf courses. It should also be considered for sites where a narrow tree is required. Minimum natural rainfall 400mm. One of the few trees tolerant of dry sandy soils and salty winds, does not like to be waterlogged for long periods. B. integrifolia may not perform as well in soils high in clay particles.


Corymbia citriodora and maculata—Common name: Spotted Gum, Lemon Scented Gum. Height: 45mt, but usually smaller to approx 20mt.
Habit: Medium to tall tree with smooth bark, erect trunk and rounded to spreading moderately dense canopy with slender pendulous leaves. Bark is deciduous in summer and autumn peeling to reveal new bark coloured cream to dark grey or bluish giving a mottled or spotted appearance. Fast growing. Foliage: Evergreen. Leaves are dark green and slightly shiny, approx. 1.5-5cm in length and 2-4cm wide. Aromatic when crushed. Culture & Use: A fast growing tree well suited to road side plantings, shade or screen trees, parks, large properties. Minimum natural rainfall 450mm. It will grow in a wide range of soils including clays, sandy and poorly drained and in a wide range of conditions from temperate to subtropical. It is frost susceptible and protection should be given to young trees. Smog tolerant, Bird attracting, leaves eaten by Koalas.

Cupaniopsis anacardioides—Common name: Tuckeroo, Cashew leaf Cupania. Height: 8-15mt.
Habit: Small to medium sized tree with a dense canopy and leathery foliage. Bark is grey and slightly rough. Foliage: Evergreen. Leaves are leathery and dark green, new growth is coppery bronze in colour. Aromatic when crushed. Culture & Use: An outstanding tree with an extremely ornamental character ideal for use in street scapes, coastal situations, screens, gardens, parks or to provide shade. An excellent tree widely used in Brisbane, very hardy, tolerates salt laden winds, will grow in a wide range of conditions and soils but likes to have good drainage. Very decorative when in fruit.

Geijera parviflora—Common name: Wilga, Australian Willow. Height: 4-9mt.
Habit: A spreading small tree with a dense rounded crown with pendulous foliage. Bark is dark grey to brown. Foliage: Leaves are mid to dark green in colour, shiny, long narrow and linear, 3-20cm long by 0.5-1cm wide. Strongly aromatic when crushed. Culture & Use: An outstanding tree with an extremely ornamental character ideal for use in street scapes, coastal situations, screens, gardens, parks, urban situations, ideal for planting under overhead service wires. G.parviflora is an ideal small tree tolerant of drought, and performing well in a range of different climates and soil types although it prefers to have good drainage. It will perform reasonably in partial shade. It is an extremely slow growing tree taking up to 30-36 months to produce a 1.5mt specimen. Taking orders for 2010.
Adelaide Advanced Trees — Hardy trees for Landscape architects

Glossoxylon chinense— Common name: Chinese Pistache Height: 8-10m. Habit: A tree with a large spreading crown, vase like in shape. Fast growth rate. Foliage: Deciduous. Bright deep green glossy foliage, 10-15cm long, 3-4cm wide. Culture & Use: Shade, parks, roadsides, ornamental plantings. Minimum natural rainfall 750mm to thickly grown. Free flowering small tree, requires regular irrigation during the establishment period and possibly through extended dry periods when established. It is not very frost resistant and grows best in coastal situations, but should also perform fairly well inland. Requires protection from strong winds, may drop leaves, adaptable to most soil types although prefers soil that is deep, moist, and well composted. May sucker from cut or damaged roots.

Hymenosporum flavum— Common name: Native Frangipani. Height: 4-8m. Habit: An attractive upright tree with a relatively open crown and solitary trunk. Bark is grey in colour and roughish. Reasonably fast growth rate. Full sun to part shade position. Foliage: Evergreen. Bright deep green glossy foliage, 10-15cm long, 3-4cm wide. Culture & Use: Shade, parks, roadsides, ornamental plantings. Minimum natural rainfall 750mm to thickly grown. Free flowering small tree, requires regular irrigation during the establishment period and possibly through extended dry periods when established. It is not very frost resistant and grows best in coastal situations, but should also perform fairly well inland. Requires protection from strong winds, may drop leaves, adaptable to most soil types although prefers soil that is deep, moist, and well composted. May sucker from cut or damaged roots.

Pistacia chinensis— Common name: Chinese Pistache Height: 8-10m. Habit: Pistacia chinensis is well-known for its extremely fine foliage, pinnately-compound and rich green in summer; in autumn, it develops bright crimson colour and holds on the tree for many weeks. It is as well-coloured as Rhus, but without the allergy problems. This small tree will grow well in most landscape sites, but probably is not tolerant of water logging. In dry and compacted sites, Pistacia chinensis is one of the best tree choices, as it establishes easily, and is tolerant of extremely dry soils.

Habit: A large tree often as broad as it is tall with an erect conical habit when young, but developing a more rounded crown with a large main trunk and branches with maturity. Ornamental bark which exfoliates to reveal new pale green bark. With age this develops into irregular patches by the decorticating flakes from tan, dark olive-green, cream and grey. Hardy. Foliage: Deciduous. Impartipinnate leaves, 30-35cm long, dark green in colour, paler beneath. Changes to a saffron-yellow in autumn. Culture & Use: Gardens, parks, streetscapes, summer shade tree, car parks. Koelreutaria’s are tolerant of hot dry summers and cold winters. They prefer deep fertile soils but should perform satisfactorily in most soils from acidic to alkaline, will withstand occasional wet soil, drought tolerant, do not perform well in coastal conditions and should be protected from salt laden winds.

Lagerstroemia indica— Common name: Natchez Crapemyrtle Height: 4-8m. Habit: Small, deciduous, vase shaped tree with ascending branches and multi trunk habit. Thrives in Dry Climates, Hot Climates. Drought Tolerant, Long Blooming, Low Maintenance, Showy Flowers. A very popular cultivar with excellent white flowers and highly attractive exfoliating bark. The extremities of the branches become pendulous giving a slightly weeping effect which is made more dramatic with the production of large white inflorescences. Lagerstroemia Natchez is an adaptable tree suitable for a wide range of situations. Best in moist, well drained, slightly acidic soils in a position receiving full sun.

Jasminum officinale— Common name: Northern Hummingbird Jasmine Height: 6-8m. Habit: A small, evergreen shrub. Flowers are made up of tube-like structures which become pendulous as they mature. These become very attractive when the flowers are found in large clusters. The flowers are white and fragrant. Culture & Use: Gardens, streets, conservation areas. Slightly heat intolerant. Requires full sun to part shade position. Foliage: Evergreen. Bright, glossy, dark green leaves. Well suited to coastal situations and exposed sites. Suitable for coastal gardens, but not for exposed sites. Prefers full sun or part shade position. Foliage: Evergreen. Bright, glossy, dark green leaves. Well suited to coastal situations and exposed sites. Suitable for coastal gardens, but not for exposed sites. Requires full sun or part shade position. Foliage: Evergreen. Bright, glossy, dark green leaves. Well suited to coastal situations and exposed sites. Suitable for coastal gardens, but not for exposed sites. Requires full sun or part shade position. Foliage: Evergreen. Bright, glossy, dark green leaves. Well suited to coastal situations and exposed sites. Suitable for coastal gardens, but not for exposed sites. Requires full sun or part shade position.
As the world’s driest continent, Australia is unsurprisingly home to an abundance of drought tolerant plant species, including many of strong architectural form and high aesthetic value, well suited to garden cultivation. Being native to Australia helps eucalypt varieties maintain there strong hold of on of the most drought resistant trees of all. Some of our Eucalypts for consideration are:

Eucalyptus camaldulensis- Common name: River Red Gum. Height: 25mt-50mt. This tree has considerable value in large scale plantings in parks, golf courses, roadside plantings and anywhere that its eventual size is an advantage instead of a problem. Natural rainfall 250-635mm. Camaldulensis prefers deep alluvial soils but will grow satisfactorily on sandy and medium clay loams it is salt and wind tolerant and a valuable honey species.

Eucalyptus fasciculosa-Common name: Pink Gum, Hill Gum, Scrub Gum. Height: 4-15mt. An adaptable eucalypt useful for streets, parks and gardens. Minimum natural rainfall 450mm. An attractive tree that will perform well on sandy, rocky or soils of poor fertility. It does not have a dense canopy so other plants can be grown successfully in its dappled shade. From a distance it can be confused with leucoxylon.

Eucalyptus leucoxylon-Common name: South Australian Blue Gum, White Ironbark, Yellow Gum. Height: 10-30mt. An attractive eucalypt resistant to drought, frost, smog, it is adaptable to a wide range of climatic conditions and soils, including alkaline. Leucoxylon has a long flowering period and is a moderately fast grower. Used widely in South Australia.

Eucalyptus leucoxylon Megalocarpa-Common name: Blue Gum, Large-fruited Sth Australian Blue Gum. Height: 4-10mt. Habit: A spreading tree, smaller in size and with larger fruits than Eucalyptus leucoxylon, with a dense crown. Bark is smooth and flaky, cream to grey in colour. A better species for coastal exposure than other forms of Eucalyptus leucoxylon. It is resistant to drought, frost, smog, it is adaptable to a wide range of climatic conditions and soils, including alkaline. Eucalyptus leucoxylon "Megalocarpa" has a long flowering period and is a moderately fast grower.

Eucalyptus leucoxylon Rosea- Common name: Pink Flowering Gum. Height: 10-15mt. This tree has a spreading habit with a large crown & open foliage. Has abundant red/pink flowers in spring. A popular tree for its trunk colour & flowers.

Eucalyptus microcarpa-Common name: Grey Box, Green Box. Height: 10-25mt. Parks, roadsides, shade, windbreaks. Timber is ideal for burning, flowers also good for honey production. Minimum natural rainfall 450mm. Will perform well on heavy clay soils but will also adapt quite satisfactorily to lighter soils. E. microcarpa will develop a deep root system making it drought resistant, will also tolerate heavy frosts. Usually a slow growing tree.

Eucalyptus platypus-Common name: Moort, Coastal Moort, Round-leaved Moort. Height: 4-6mt. Shade, parks, street tree, ornamental specimen, gardens. Minimum natural rainfall 400mm. E platypus is salt tolerant and will perform well in a coastal situation, tolerant of alkaline sandy soils but should also perform satisfactorily on heavier soils. Moderately frost resistant. Fast growing.

Eucalyptus porosa-Common name: Quorn Mallee. Height:6m. Prefers a light well drained soil in open sunny position. It is drought frost and salt resistant.


Eucalyptus torquata-Common name: Coral Gum. Height: 12m. Prefers light to medium, well drained soil in an open, sunny position. Drought and frost resistant.