Trees in residential areas

Trees and shrubs have a place in residential areas by creating pleasant environments that provide shade during summer, create colourful landscapes and screen out neighbours. Trees have many environmental benefits by providing habitat for native animals and insects, and also reduce salinity and erosion.

What we sometimes don't consider is the damaging effects that tree and shrub root systems can have on nearby buildings and underground utilities.

Drains, sewers and water mains can become disrupted, blocked and damaged, sometimes involving costly repairs and removal.

Council has produced this guide to assist residents in choosing appropriate plant species to reduce damage and blockages to nearby pipes and structures.

For information on underground assets, please call **Dial before You Dig** on **1100**

Council Responsibility

Council maintains and repairs the treatment plants, pipes and pumping stations that supply water to, and take sewage from, households in the urban areas of Dubbo & Wellington.

Council is responsible for the sewerage pipes up to the first pipe joint within your property.

Council often relies on advice from residents regarding problems with sewer services.

If you notice a sewage overflow, please phone Council's Customer Service Centre on (02) 6801 4000.

Contact us

For more information about your sewerage services contact Council's Customer Service Centre

Phone: (02) 6801 4000

Email: council@dubbo.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.dubbo.nsw.gov.au

DUBBO REGIONAL COUNCIL

SEWERAGE SERVICES

Keeping Tree Roots out of Sewer Lines

Information for property owners about plant species that can cause damage to the sewerage system

What do root systems do?

Root systems supply the plant with water and nutrients, essential for the plant's survival. Root systems will often find old and cracked stormwater, sewerage and water mains, as these are perfect food sources. Roots continue to grow inside these pipes, causing blockages and leading to overflows and flooding. The extent of root systems varies between species.

Prevention is better than cure!

Choosing appropriate plant species for your garden is very important- prevention is far better than cure!

Before you plant trees, make sure you know where sewer pipes and other services are located. More information and sewerage diagrams can be obtained from Council's Customer Service Centre.

Council has compiled the following list of popular species planted in Dubbo, and their possible potential for damage to underground assets.

Please note that the following species are intended only as a guide. For further information on suitable trees and shrubs for this area, talk to your local nursery, or contact Council.

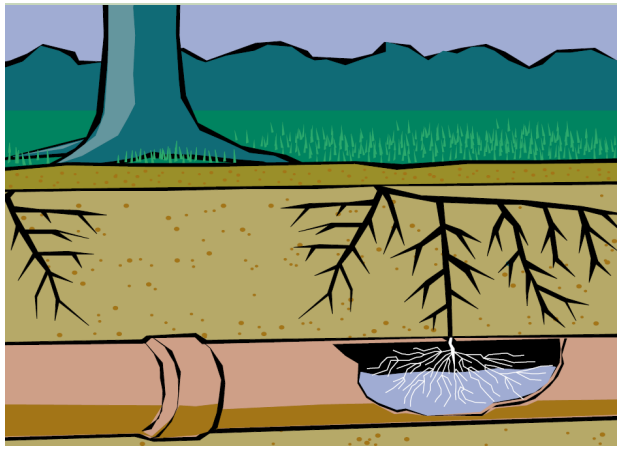

Figure 1. Tree roots seeking out moisture in a sewer pipe

The following plants can be used in residential gardens provided they are no closer than two (2) metres from sewer pipes and other services.

Botanical Name	Common Name
Acacia spp.	Wattle (small/medium varieties)
Acer palmatum	Japanese Maple
Bauhinia variegata	Orchid Tree, Bauhinia
Cassia spp.	Cassia
Citrus	Lemon, Orange, Mandarin
Eucalyptus spp.	Small Eucalypts
Feijoa sellowana	Pineapple Guava
Gardenia spp.	Gardenia
Koelreuteria paniculata	Golden Rain Tree
Lagerstroemia indica	Crepe Myrtle
Prunus spp. (Ornamental or fruiting)	Apricot, Plum, Cherry
Rhododendron spp.	Azaleas, Rhododendrons

The following plants should be placed no closer than four (4) metres from sewer pipes and other services:

Botanical Name	Common Name
Amygdalus pollardii	Flowering Almond
Banksia spp.	Banksia
Betula pendula (B. alba)	Silver Birch
Buddleja spp.	Buddleja
Eucalyptus woodwardii	Lemon-flowering Gum
Ginkgo biloba	Maidenhair Tree
Gleditsia triacanthos (and cultivars)	Honey Locust
Hymenosporum flavum	Woolum, Native Frangipani
Philadelphus spp.	Mock Orange
Pistacia chinensis	Chinese Pistachio
Pyrus spp.	Flowering Pear
Sapium sebiferum	Chinese Tallow Tree
Vitis spp.	Grape Vines (including Glory Vines)

The following plants can block sewers, and cause damage to utilities and structures. Plant them with care in the suburban environment.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Damage rating
Bougainvillea species	Bougainvilleas	**High**
Callistemon citron's (C. lanceo-	Crimson Bottlebrush	**High**
Fraxinus ornus	Claret Ash, Manna Ash	**High**
Grevillea robusta	Silky Oak	**High**
Grevillea spp.	Grevilleas	**High**
Ilex species	Hollies	**High**
Lophostemon confetus	Brush Box, Tristania	**High**
Magnolia species	Magnolias	**High**
Melaleuca armillaris	Bracelet Honey Myrtle	**High**
Nerium oleander	Oleander	**High**
Phyllostachus species	Bamboos (non-clumping)	**High**
Wisteria sinensis	Chinese Wisteria	**High**
Acer negundo	Box Elder Maple	**Very High**
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	**Very High**
Araucaria species	Norfolk Island & Bunya Pines	**Very High**
Brachychiton acerifolium	Illawarra Flame Tree	**Very High**
Casuarina species	Casuarinas	**Very High**
Erythrina species	Coral Trees	**Very High**
Eucalyptus species	Large Gum Trees	**Very High**
Jacaranda spp.	Jacaranda	**Very High**
Lauris noblis	Bay Laurel	**Very High**
Pinus species	Pine Trees	**Very High**
Platanus acerifolia	Plane Tree	**Very High**
Robinia pseudoacacia	Golden Robinia	**Very High**
Schinus molle	Pepper Tree	**Very High**
Brachychiton populneus	Kurrajong	**Extreme**
Brachychiton gregorii	Desert Kurrajong	**Extreme**
Ficus species	Fig Trees & Rubber Plants	**Extreme**
Liquidambar styraciflua	Liquidambar, Sweet Gum	**Extreme**
Populus species	Poplars	**Extreme**
Salix species	Willows	**Extreme**