

→ Trees may be at the root of the problem

Trees and your sewer pipes

Around our homes trees are favourites in most gardens. Trees provide beauty, protection from sun, rain, wind, and generally speaking are friends in our environment. But, and it's an important but, if we choose to plant the wrong type of tree or plant trees too close to sewer pipes, we truly are asking for future trouble.

Invasive tree roots are the most common cause of sewer blockages within East Gippsland Water sewer and water supply systems, and tree roots also have potential to cause major damage to buildings, footpaths, driveways, fences and household drainage pipes. Not for a moment are we suggesting that trees not be planted around homes, but the message is, be careful with species selection and be thoughtful as to where trees are planted.

Poor choices can be costly

Tree roots in their search for moisture and nutrients can be very aggressive and cause considerable damage to private property and public assets. Water and sewer mains are prime targets for tree roots. Once roots enter a water or sewer system they grow very quickly due to their newfound source of water and nutrient, quickly blocking or damaging pipes and sewers.

Cost of repairs? Who pays?

The cost of repairs can be expensive for property owners and for East Gippsland Water. Maintenance of sewer and water mains inside your property boundary is your responsibility. East Gippsland Water is responsible for maintenance from your property's point of connection to the sewer and water main supplying the entire street. If tree roots cause damage on your property you will need to contact a licensed plumber to fix the problem at your expense. If the tree is on your property it is advisable to remove it as it will probably continue to cause damage. If the tree from your property causes damage to a public asset outside your property boundary, you may also be held liable for the damage caused.

Ways to prevent problems

Through thoughtful planning you can minimise the risk of sewer invasion by tree roots. Before planting any type of tree on your property, consider three actions you could take.

Consult with East Gippsland Water

If you don't know where your property's sewer and water mains run, check with EGW. In nearly every case we can provide you with a map of your property showing where the sewer drain within your property boundary serves your home, and the sewer and water mains' location in relation to your property. Armed with that information you can make sound decisions about planting trees, and determine if there are existing trees better off removed before costly damage occurs.

Speak to a qualified arborist

Arborists provide professional advice on species suitable for gardens, and advice on:

- tree maintenance
- tree surgery/pruning
- tree removal

Visit your local nursery

Local knowledge and current information on a wide range of trees and shrubs and their growing habits is obtainable from your local nursery. It's also a good opportunity to find out which trees or shrubs don't do well in your area.

For further information:

Ph: (03) 5150 4444

24 Hour Emergency: 1300 134 202

Fax: (03) 5150 4477

E-mail: egw@egwater.vic.gov.au

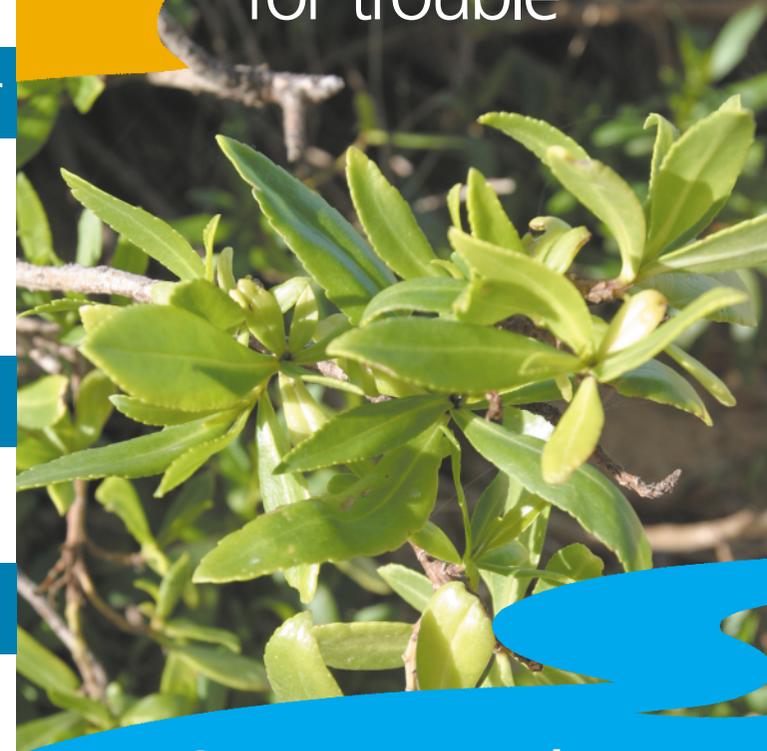
Visit our website:

www.egwater.vic.gov.au



Plant thoughtfully

Trees near pipes could be asking for trouble



Customer service is our business

Phone: (03) 5150 4444

24 Hour Emergency: 1300 134 202



Problem species 1

Not advisable within 2.5 metres of pipes

Botanical Name

Acacia cultriform
Acacia cyclops
Acacia howittii
Acacia iteaphylla
Acacia longifolia
Acacia microbotrya
Acacia retinodes
Acacia sophorae
Acacia sowdenii
Acacia trineural
Acacia victoriae
Acmena (Eugenia smithii)
Acmena paniculata
Acmena coolimianina related species
Actinostrobilus pyramidalis
Bauhinia variegata and forms
Betula pendula
Caleistemon citrinus
Callistemon "Gawler Hybrid"
Callistemon lilacinus
Callistemon macropuntatus
Callistemon phoeniceus
Callistemon rigidus
Callistemon salignus
Callistemon viminalis and similar species
Cercis siliquastrum
Citharexylum spp.
Cotoneaster frigida
Crataegus laevellii
Crataegus oxyacantha and other forms
Duranta repens
Eucalyptus caesia
Eucalyptus calycogona
Eucalyptus cosmophylla
Eucalyptus crucis
Eucalyptus dielsii
Eucalyptus eremophila
Eucalyptus erythrocorys
Eucalyptus erythronoma
Eucalyptus forrestiana
Eucalyptus leptophylla
Eucalyptus orbifolia
Eucalyptus preissiana
Eucalyptus pyriformis
Eucalyptus spathulata
Eucalyptus stoatei
Eucalyptus websteriana
Euonymus japonicus
Feijoa sellowiana and forms
Geijera parviflora
Hakea elliptica
Hakea laurina
Hakea petiolaris
Hakea saligna
Hakea sulcata
Hakea undulata
Koeleruteria paniculate
Lagerstroemia indica

Common Name

Knife – Leaf Wattle
Western Coastal Wattle
Stick Wattle
Gawler Range Wattle
Sallow Wattle
Manna Wattle
Wirilda
Coast Wattle
Western Myall
Three-nerved Wattle
Bramble Wattle
Lilly Pilly
Bush Cherry
Blue Lilly Pilly
Swamp Cypress - Pine
Ebony Wood
Silver Birch
Crimson Bottlebrush
"Gawler Hybrid"
Lilac Bottlebrush
Scarlet Bottlebrush
Fiery Bottlebrush
Stiff Bottlebrush
Willow Bottlebrush
Weeping Bottlebrush
Judas Tree
Fiddlewood
Cotoneaster
French Hawthorn
English Hawthorn
Sky Flower
Gunguru
Red Mallee
Cup Gum
Silver Mallee
Diels Mallee
Tall Sand Mallee
Red-Cap Gum
Lindsay Gum
Fuschia Gum
Slender-Leaf Mallee
Round-Leaf Mallee
Bell-Fruit Mallee
Large-Fruit Mallee
Swamp Mallee
Pear Gum
Websters Mallee
Evergreen Spindle-Tree
Pineapple Guava
Wilga
Oval-Leaf Hakea
Pincushion Hakea
Sea-Urchin Hakea
Willow-Leaf Hakea
-
-
Golden Rain Tree
Pink Crepe-Myrtle

Botanical Name

Leptospermum laevigatum
Malus spp.
Melaleuca elliptica
Melaleuca fulgen
Melaleuca lateritia
Melaleuca neshpila
Melaleuca pentagona
Melaleuca radula
Melaleuca hypericifolia
Nerium oleander
Photinia serrulata
Pittosporum crassifolium (and variegated)
Pittosporum phylliraeoiden
Pittosporum tenuifolium
Prunus spp
Pyracantha coccinea lalandi
Pyracantha crenulata
Pyracantha rogersiana
Sophora tetraptera
Spartium junceum
Stenolobium stans velutina
Stenolobium alatum
Viburnum tinus
Vifex agnus-castus

Common Name

Coast Ti-Tree
Crab Apple
Granite Honeymyrtle
Scarlet Honeymyrtle
Robin Redbreast Bush
Showy Honeymyrtle
Oval-Leaf Honeymyrtle
Graceful Honeymyrtle
Red Honeymyrtle
Oleander
Chinese Hawthorn
Karo
Weeping Pittosporum
Kehuhu
Flowering Fruit Trees
Fire-Thorn
Nepal Fire-Thorn
-
Yellow Kowhai
Spanish Broom
Yellow Elder
-
Laurestinus
Lilac Chaste-Tree

Problem species 2

Not advisable within 4 metres of pipes

Acacia acuminata
Acacia cyanophylla
Acacia pendula
Acacia salicina
Acacia saligna
Acer negundo
Agonis flexuosa
Albizzia julibrissin
Arbustus unedo
Bauhinia carroni and related species
Brachychiton acerifolius
Brachychiton discolor
Brachychiton populenus
Casuarina cristate
Casuarina stricta
Casuarina torulosa
Celtis australis
Celtis occidentalis and related species
Cotoneaster serotinus
Erythrina indica hybrida
Eucalyptus cneorifolia
Eucalyptus conglobata
Eucalyptus ficifolia
Eucalyptus gardneri
Eucalyptus incrassata
Eucalyptus intertexta
Eucalyptus lansdowneana
Eucalyptus lehmannii
Eucalyptus leucoxydon rosea
Eucalyptus megacornuta
Eucalyptus nutans
Eucalyptus pileata

Raspberry Jam Wattle
Orange Wattle
Weeping Myall or Boree
Willow Wattle
Golden Wreath Wattle
Box Elder Maple
Willow Myrtle
Pink Silk Tree
Strawberry Tree
Kangaroo Island Narrow - Leaf Mallee
Flame Tree
White Kurrajong
Kurrajong
Belah
Drooping She-Oak
Rose She-Oak
Nettle Tree
Hackberry of Sugarberry
Cotoneaster
Indian Coral Tree
Kangaroo Island Narrow - Leaf Mallee
Port Lincoln Mallee
Red Flowering Gum
Blue Mallee
Yellow Mallee
Gum Barked Coolabah
Crimson Mallee Box
Bushy Yate
Red Flowered Yellow Gum
Warty Yate
Red Flowered Mort
Ravensthorpe Mallee

Botanical Name

Eucalyptus platyptus
Eucalyptus sargentii
Eucalyptus steedmanii
Eucalyptus torquata
Ficus rubiginosa variegata
Fraxinus exelsior var. Aurea
Fraxinus ornus
Hakea suaveolens
Harpephyllum caffrum
Hymenosporum flavum
Ligustrum japonicum & variegated forms
Ligustrum lucidum & variegated forms
Liquidamber styraciflua
Melaleuca alternifolia
Melaleuca armillaris
Melaleuca halmaturorum
Melaleuca huegeli
Melaleuca lanceolata
Melaleuca linarifolia var.
Melaleuca trichostachya
Metrosideros exelsa
Myoporum insulare
Myoporum montanum
Parkinson aculeate
Pittosporum rhombifolium
Pittosporum undulatum
Pittosporum variegated
Sophora japonica
Tristania conferta

Common Name

Round Leaf Mallee
Sargents Mallee
Steedmans Gum
Coral Gum
Variegated Rusty Fig
Golden Ash
Hanna Ash
Sweet Hakea
Kaffir Plum
Native Frangipani
Golden Hedge Privet
Glossy Tree Privet
Liquid Amber
-
Bracelet Honeymyrtle
Kangaroo Paperbark
Chenille Honeymyrtle
Moonah
-
Flax Leaf Paperbark
N. Zealand Christmas Tree
Boobialla
Water Bush
Jerusalem Thorn
Queensland Pittosporum
Sweet Pittosporum
Variegated Pittosporum
Pagoda Tree
Brush Box

Problem species 3

Not advisable in any street, road or near drainage areas

Alnus jorullensis
Araucaria heterophylla
Casuarina cunninghamiana
Casuarina glauca
Cinnamomum camphora
Crataegus (various species)
Ficus (all species)
Fraxinus oxycarpa
Fraxinus raywoodii
(Unless grafted or budded into certified
Fraxinus ornus (Manna Ash) root stock)
Lagunaria patersoni
Plantanus (all species)
Populus – nigra & all related species
Ribinia pseudoacacia
Salix babylonica and related species
Schinus molle
Tamaric aphylla
Ulmus procera and related species

Evergreen Alder
Norfolk Island Pine
River She-Oak
Grey Buloke
Camphor Laurel
Hawthorn
Fig
Desert Ash
Claret Ash
-
Pyramid Tree
Plane Tree
Poplar
False Acacia
Weeping Willow
Pepper Tree
Athel Tree
English Elm

Climatic and growing conditions vary widely throughout East Gippsland. These lists must not be considered as exhaustive and are offered as a guide only.