

gardeningtips

PLANTING TREES FOR SMALL GARDENS



Wouldn't we all love to have a tree in our garden? A tree gives us so much.... shade, warmth and attracts nature to our gardens. However, choosing a tree can be difficult because the wrong tree can create decades of trouble for the gardener, either because it is very messy, has outgrown the site, or poses a problem to the foundations of buildings, water and sewerage pipes etc. We also need to consider if the tree you want to plant is on the invasive species list.

See some of my favorite small trees/shrubs for smaller-medium gardens:

- **Bottlebrush** (Callistemon): Tough evergreens, flowers in spring/autumn
- **Cheese wood** (Pittosporum): Evergreen, variegated foliage
- **Citrus trees**: evergreen, lemon trees flower up to 4 times a year!! Bonus
- **Cabbage Tree** (Cordyline): Gives a palm like effect
- **Sersia** (Blinktaaibos, in Hlokošiyane): semi-deciduous, indigenous,
- **Hibiscus**: (rose of sharon) flowers in late summer and autumn, stunning
- **Carissa macrocarpa** (num num): evergreen, indigenous, fruits are edible
- **Olive** (olea europaea): evergreen ornamental, very popular
- **Orange jasmine** (Murraya exotica): evergreen, sweet smelling flowers
- **Sagewood** (Buddleja salviifolia): semi evergreen, flowers aug-oct
- **Tree wisteria** ((Bolusanthus speciosus) Indegenous and just wow!

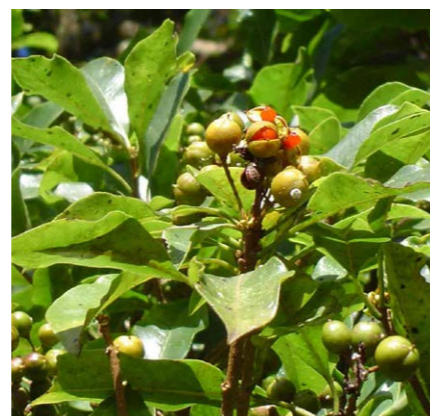
There are many more but I would say these are the top performers in my opinion.

For those out there who really don't have a clue about what evergreen, semi evergreen or semi deciduous means then look noooo further...

EVERGREEN - relating to or denoting a plant that retains green leaves throughout the year.

"the glossy laurel is fully hardy and evergreen"

SEMI-DECIDUOUS OR SEMI-EVERGREEN is a botanical term which refers to plants that lose their foliage for a very short period, when old leaves fall off and new foliage growth is starting.



How to properly plant a tree/large shrub:

Yes yes I know some of you are like "gosh that's easy" dig a lil hole throw some compost in then pop in the tree... hey presto" aaahhhh no stop right there.

Remember your planting a little living thing which will need to grow its little legs and stretch and be able to obtain its nutrients in the soil to grow.

1. The width of the hole should be at least 3 times the diameter of the root ball or container or the spread of the roots in the case of bare root trees. This will provide the tree with enough worked soil for its little legs (roots) structure to establish themselves.
2. Gently remove the shrub/tree from the bag or pot (try not to hold tree from the trunk, it's like your strangling the poor thing) gently remove any soils at the root not all just enough to expose some roots. BE VERY GENTLE
3. Make sure the hole where you have dug has good drainage. Any soil you took out then back fill into the hole adding in compost, manure and topsoil. Fill hole just to the top of the ball, do not pat down the surface area like your patting yourself on the back.... We want water to get into that hole.
4. Newly planted trees should be watered at the time of planting. In addition, during the first growing season, they should be watered at least once a week



in the absence of rain, more often during the height of the summer. However, care should be taken not to overwater as this may result in oxygen deprivation.

5. Fertilize: please treat your tree with the right fertilizer for that specific tree. Your local nursery should know, if not give me a call!

Don't forget to stake your little gem then watch them grow.

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