

GROWING GARDEN TREES



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Plant Classification

Based on Plant Height, Stem Hardiness and Canopy Spread, plants may be classified into THREE categories:

1. **Herbs:** Small low growing plants with tender stems and small canopy spread
2. **Shrubs:** Medium growing plants with somewhat woody stems and average canopy spread
3. **Trees:** Perennial, tall woody plants

Trees

These are a group of woody perennial plants with a long life span. Based on their utility, trees are categorized into the following groups:

1. Flowering Trees
2. Fruit-bearing Trees
3. Shade-giving Trees
4. Avenue and/or Specimen Trees
5. Trees for Screening Purposes

Flowering Trees

These are a group of trees grown for their beautiful and/or fragrant flowers. Best examples are caesalpinia and Plumeria.



Fruit Bearing Trees

These are a group of trees grown for their fruits. Best examples are mango, citrus fruits and apples.

Shade Giving Trees

These are a group of trees grown for shade purposes. Best example is Ficus species (Pipal tree).

Avenue or Specimen Trees

These are a group of trees grown as specimen trees and/or avenue trees in parks, public gardens etc. Generally these trees are evergreen trees with attractive foliage. Best examples are silver oaks and royal palms.

Trees for Screening Purposes

These are a group of trees grown for screening purposes and as a live fence. Best example is Polyalthia species.

Climate and Soil Requirements for Growing Trees

Trees are very hardy plants and grow in any suitable climate and garden soil. As a rule well-drained, deep and rich soils are recommended.



Propagation of Trees

Propagation is mainly through:

- Seeds
- Cuttings
- Suckers
- Layering
- Grafting
- Budding



Planting of Trees

Deep pits according to the size of the tree to be planted are dug in the garden. Planting is done without disturbing the root portion of a tree plant. Top soil mixed with organic manures is used to refill the pit.

Watering

Soon after planting a tree, light watering is done. Frequent watering is recommended until the plants get established in the garden. After that, trees do not require much watering as they are deep-rooted plants. Watering may be done during extreme climates such as scorching summers.



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