

Street tree and kerbside planting guide



So, you want to plant a tree on the verge outside your property? There are a few things you need to consider before you do. These include working out exactly where you should plant the tree and what species you should select. As per Cairns Regional Council's Local Law No. 11 (Local Government Controlled Areas and Roads), the following information takes the guess work out of street tree and kerbside planting.

Before planting a tree on the verge outside your property, you should consider the following:

- Residents are encouraged to only plant appropriate vegetation between the property boundary line and the kerb, or the edge of pavement in areas without a kerb. Appropriate kerbside species do not drop excessive leaf litter or fruit, nor do they have invasive root systems. (see plans featured in this document for specific information);
- A single stemmed tree only is allowed to be planted on footpaths instead of shrubs which can block both pedestrian and vehicular lines of sight or palms which provide little shade and cannot be grown under power lines;
- Local nurseries can recommend appropriate species or refer to the '[The Rainforest City Landscaping Plan](#)';
- Trees must be planted in accordance with FNQROC guidelines;
- Species shall be selected for their suitability to site conditions (eg. select smaller trees for under/near power lines);
- The alignment and placing of trees measured from the tree at the estimated ultimate size shall be in accordance with the following ([FNQROC D9.07](#)):
 - a. Greater than 4.0 metres from electricity or telecommunication poles or pillars.
 - b. Greater than 7.5 metres from streetlights.
 - c. Greater than 4.0 metre radius from high voltage transmission lines.
 - d. Greater than 2.0 metres from stormwater kerb inlet pits.
 - e. Trees are planted in the front of properties at the centre of the lot at a rate or at the necessary rate to provide a maximum of 20 metre spacing.
 - f. Trees to be placed a minimum of 800mm and a maximum of 1000mm from back of kerb.
 - g. Trees to be placed a minimum of three (3) metres from driveway.
 - h. At intersections trees to be placed a minimum of ten (10) metres back from the face of kerb of the adjoining street.

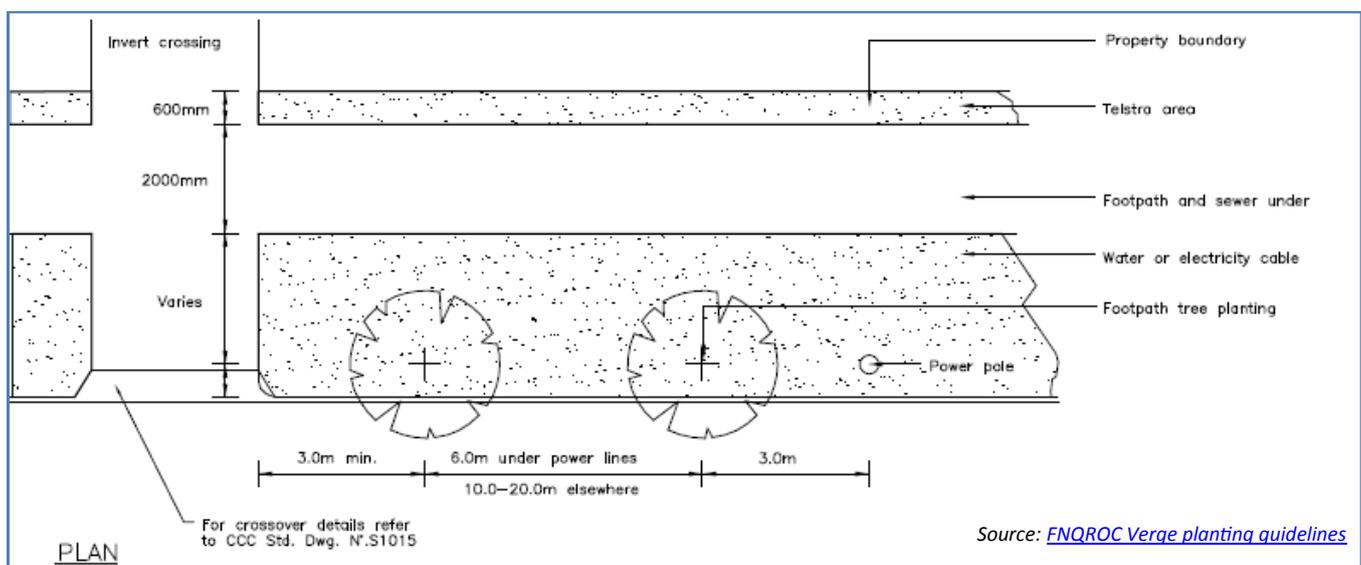


Image 1: Planting locations, showing minimum distance from driveway crossover and power pole

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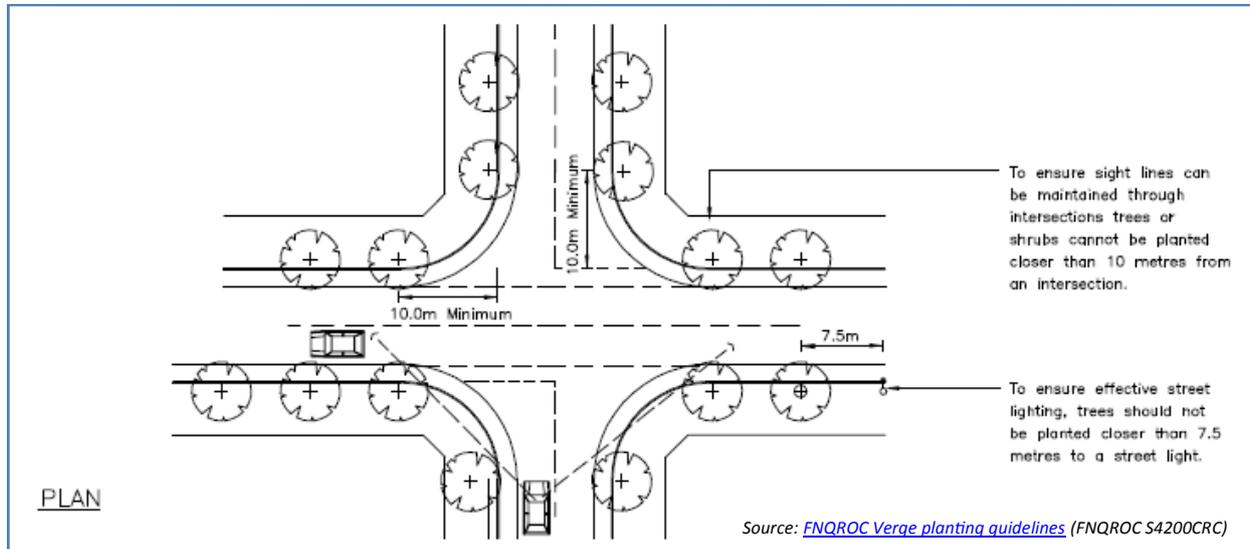


Image 2: Planting locations, showing minimum distance from intersections ensuring appropriate sight lines and lighting levels are maintained.

Note: Root guard should be installed 600mm deep and two (2) metres long, centred at the trunk of the tree (one metre either side). Root guard needs to be installed as a minimum on the kerbside of the tree and also on the footpath side if a concrete path exists. In most instances the root guard will require a Dingo digger or similar trenching equipment to carry out works, remember to always - [Dial before you dig!](#)

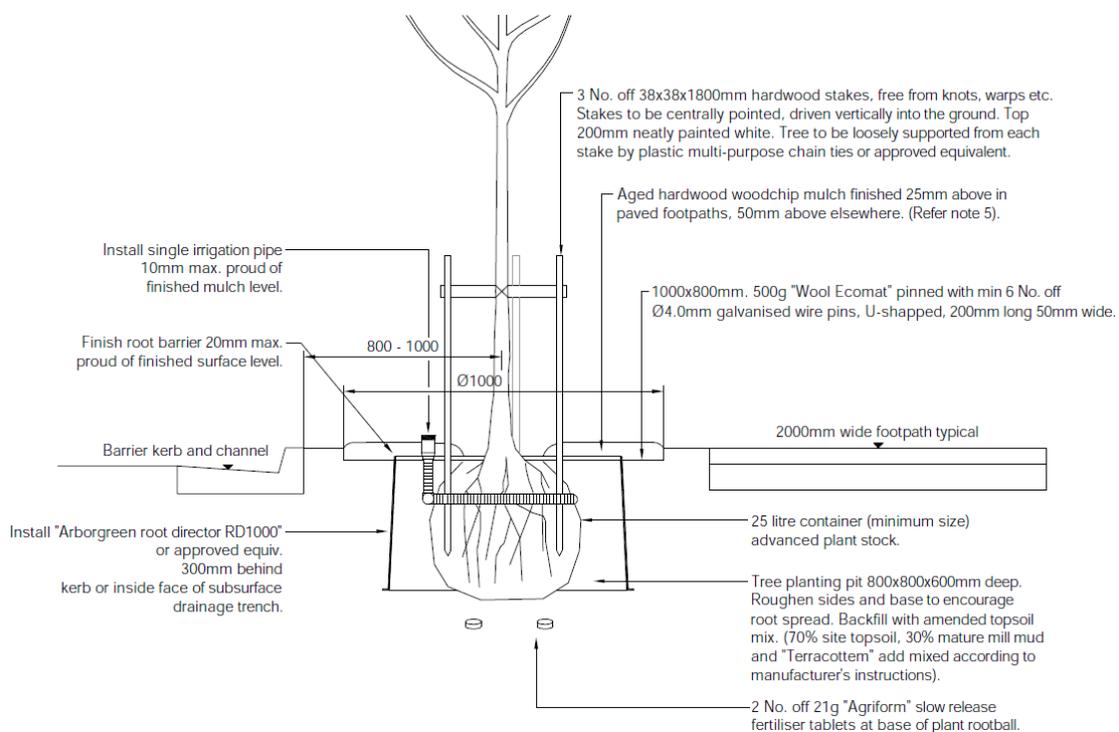


Image 3: Planting depths, locations and appropriate location of root barrier.

Source: [FNQROC Verge planting guidelines \(FNQROC S4210\)](#)

Need more information? If you need more information about what to plant outside your property, please contact Cairns Regional Council's customer service team on 1300 69 22 47. Alternatively, you can email imenquiries@cairns.qld.gov.au



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