

# FIRE RETARDANT TREES. (Compiled by Penny Kater MAIH)

**There has been a lot of publicity about the use of fire retardant trees and shrubs in fire prone areas following the recent summer fire season.**

It should be emphasized that all plant material will burn, according to circumstances and fire intensity.

However trees with high moisture and low flammable oil content in their leaves are most likely to aid in ember capture and heat and wind modification if planted around fire prone buildings.

Exotic trees such as Liquidambar, Oak, Elm and Plane Trees have been suggested as fulfilling these criteria, however consideration should be given as to the suitability of exotic trees in the light of drought and heat tolerance in our drying climate.

The following species are predominantly native dry rainforest trees which are drought tolerant, evergreen and have low oil content in their leaves.

Their requirements vary but in general once they are established they are tough, attractive, and provide shade, shelter and food for native wildlife.

**TREES** (All this material is readily available on the web)

<p><b>Blueberry Ash</b> <i>Elaeocarpus reticulatus</i></p> <p>Small tree. Tolerant of most conditions but frost tender when young. Pink flowers and blue fruit which attract the regent bower bird.</p>	
<p><b>Smooth Leafed Quandong</b> <i>Elaeocarpus eumundi</i></p> <p>Mid sized rainforest tree, frost tender when young. Can be pruned or hedged, good screening tree, avenue or specimen. Bronze new foliage.</p>	
<p><b>Blackwood</b> <i>Acacia melanoxylon</i></p> <p>A fast growing attractive timber and shade tree. Drought tolerant, benefits from added organic matter.</p>	
<p><b>Coastal banksia</b> <i>Banksia integrifolia</i></p> <p>Small evergreen tree, drought and frost tolerant. Bird attracting flowers. Plant in a group.</p>	
<p><b>Cheese Tree</b> <i>Glochidion ferdinandi</i></p> <p>Fast growing, drought tolerant, glossy leafed canopy. Bird attracting fruit. Tolerates light frost.</p>	

<p><b>Chinese Elm</b> <i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>  Large semi deciduous tree native to Asia, fast growing, drought tolerant. Broad canopy, good shade. Attractive to bees.</p>	
<p><b>Deep Yellow Wood</b> <i>Rhodasphaera rhodantha</i>  Fast growing tree, glossy leaves, red flowers, shiny brown berries. Tolerant of frost and drought. Good shade tree, bird attractant.</p>	
<p><b>Flame Tree</b> <i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i>  Deciduous, spectacular red flowers on bare wood. Drought and frost tolerant, good shade.</p>	
<p><b>Firewheel Tree</b> <i>Stenocarpus sinuatus</i>  Evergreen, glossy green canopy, spectacular bird attracting flowers. Tolerant of drought and light frost.</p>	
<p><b>Fig</b> <i>Ficus spp.</i> All spp.  Large spreading shade trees. Drought tolerant. Birds love the fruit.</p>	
<p><b>Fringed Wattle</b> <i>Acacia fimbriata</i>  Fast growing small tree, frost tolerant, good shade, profuse flowers, good screen, lifespan 10-15 years.</p>	
<p><b>Ivory Curl Tree</b> <i>Buckhamia celcissima</i>  Spectacular small tree, glossy leaves, beautiful bird and bee attracting flowers, tough, tolerates light frost.</p>	
<p><b>Kurrajong</b> <i>Brachychiton populneus</i>  Large shade tree, glossy leaves, cream flowers, edible for stock, drought tolerant, frost tolerant.</p>	
<p><b>Lacebark</b> <i>Brachychiton discolor</i>  Medium, semi deciduous, drought tolerant shade tree. Spectacular pink bell flowers on bare wood.</p>	

<p><b>Leichardt Bean</b> <i>Cassia brewsteri</i> Fast growing deciduous, drought tolerant shade tree, spectacular red/yellow flowers.</p>	
<p><b>Lillypilly</b> <i>Syzygium</i> all spp. Most full sized Lillypillies are fast growing, good shade trees. Prefer good soil but remarkably drought tolerant. Bird attractant fruit.</p>	
<p><b>Native Frangipanni</b> <i>Hymenosporum flavum</i> Fast growing small tree of varied habit, heavily perfumed flowers. Grow several in a group.</p>	
<p><b>Native Quince</b> <i>Alectryon subcinereus</i> Evergreen small to medium tree. Drought and frost tolerant, good shade, bird attracting fruit.</p>	
<p><b>Plum Pine</b> <i>Podocarpus elatus</i> Medium to large tree, dark green foliage and edible fruit. Can be hedged or used for shade or screen.</p>	
<p><b>Spotted Gum</b> <i>Corymbia maculata</i> One of the few eucalypts which can limit the intensity of fire. Smooth bark prevents fire reaching the crown and high water content in the leaves limit its flammability. A great drought tolerant specimen tree.</p>	
<p><b>Tuckeroo</b> <i>Cupaniopsis anacardiodes</i> Small evergreen tree, spreading crown, glossy leaves, showy yellow fruit. Drought tolerant.</p>	
<p><b>Watergum</b> <i>Tristaniopsis laurina</i> Small tree, attractive trunk, tiny yellow flowers, good for holding creek banks. Pretty shade tree, but slow. Drought tolerant.</p>	
<p><i>Tristaniopsis laurina</i> CV "<b>Luscious</b>" Prettier tree than the straight species above. Glossy leaves, white mottled trunk, great small tree, plant several together or use as a small specimen tree. <b>NOTE : DO NOT PLANT <i>Pittosporum undulatum</i> – IT IS FOUND TO BE HIGHLY FLAMMABLE WHEN DRY</b></p>	