

PLANT WHAT? WHERE?

# SCREENING FOR PRIVACY



**AS MODERN CITIES EVOLVE, DWELLINGS ARE BECOMING SMALLER, CLOSER, AND OFTEN OVERLOOKED BY ONE OR MORE NEIGHBOURS. PRIVACY SCREENING IS BECOMING A MAJOR ISSUE FOR LANDSCAPERS, AS HOMEOWNERS SEEK TO CREATE A PRIVATE SPACE IN WHICH TO ENJOY THEIR LEISURE TIME.**

While selecting for height is usually the main focus, equally important is what is happening below the ground. With smaller house blocks come smaller garden beds, greater proximity to homes and structures (both the client's and their neighbours), and tighter spaces in which to work.

Key considerations for selecting appropriate screening plants include:

- How big does the mature plant grow, and how big is the root system?
- What water and nutrition will this plant require?
- Does it need any ongoing maintenance? Will you be able to access the plant for pruning?
- Is it a natural or constructed garden bed (eg. Planter box)?

**THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS WILL HELP TO GUIDE THE BEST SCREENING OPTIONS FOR YOUR GARDEN.**



## SCREENING OPTIONS

### DECIDUOUS TREES

Deciduous screening trees can add visual interest to the garden throughout the year as leaves change colour, and eventually drop off. They have the advantage of letting in light during the Winter months (which can be important if planted near windows), but may not be as effective as privacy screens during that period.

Ornamental pears are a popular choice due to their fast-growing nature. Here are our favourite varieties, as well as some other equally effective options.



#### **PYRUS CALLERYANA 'CLEVELAND SELECT'**

A narrow pyramidal tree with a dense growth habit and attractive symmetrical branching. Produces brilliant orange/red foliage during Autumn, followed by white flowers in Spring. This medium deciduous tree is capable of tolerating a range of soil conditions. It does not require pruning apart from removing dead or broken branches.



#### **PYRUS CALLERYANA 'CAPITAL'**

This fastigate variant has a narrow and columnar growth habit making it suitable for screening and areas with limited space. Dark green leaves turn a reddish-purple in autumn. Masses of small white flowers bloom during Spring. Care should be taken to minimise exposure to strong winds.



#### **QUERCUS PALUSTRIS 'PRINGREEN'**

This columnar form of Pin Oak grows into a tall, stately tree ideal where screening is required. Features dark green, glossy leaves that turn red to bronze in late Autumn. Tolerates a wide range of site conditions, and has a shallow, fibrous root system.



#### **MALUS TRILOBATA**

This flowering crab apple grows to 4.5-5 metres, with an upright, conical shape. Features broad maple-shaped green leaves that turn yellow with burgundy tints in autumn. Features abundant large, white flowers often with a delicate pink tinge near the yellow stamens through Spring, making it a striking selection.

## CONIFERS

Fast-growing, tall, dense and evergreen, conifers make a great screen, hedge or windbreak all year round. Cupressus 'Leighton's Green' has been the popular choice, but increasingly suffers from dieback. These are better alternatives.



### JUNIPER SPARTAN

This upright, compact conifer with beautiful, dense, deep green foliage responds to clipping, and makes an excellent dense screen. Can be used in a variety of garden styles.



### CUPRESSUS GLAUCA

This slender growing Italian pencil pine features aromatic blue-green foliage, and makes an interesting visual effect when planted along fences.

## NATIVE SCREENS

Native screens and hedges are becoming increasingly popular. They are well adapted to the Australian climate, and generally need less water. Many native screens can establish and grow quite quickly, creating a strong design element and privacy where you need it.



### WATERHOUSEA FLORIBUNDA 'WARNERS SELECTION'

This very popular native plant that is ideal for a dense screen. Its lush foliage looks good all year and will add richness to any garden design.

Maintenance is the key. Prune to desired height two to three times per year to maintain a bushy screen and restrict root growth.



### ELAEOCARPUS RETICULATUS

A beautiful evergreen native tall shrub/small tree with dense green foliage and masses of pink bell-shaped, aniseed-scented flowers that display in Spring/Summer. Small colourful blue berries follow which attract a range of native birds. Its dense green foliage and upright narrow growth habit make it ideal for screening, and can easily be kept trimmed to the desired height. Its attractive foliage is perfectly suited to most garden styles.



## PLEACHED SCREENS

If you're looking for a stylish, contemporary look for your garden, you can't go past pleaching. This trend has taken off in recent years, revealing a multitude of interesting shapes and forms to give your garden a touch of elegance and distinction.



### **LAURUS NOBILIS**

Bay trees make excellent screens thanks to their dense, deep green, aromatic foliage that looks great all year round. They are hardy growers, capable of withstanding extremes in weather. This makes them ideal for Melbourne gardens, where we experience hot summers and cool winters. Being drought and salt tolerant means they are also an excellent choice for coastal areas. Green Stem is a tall growing Bay variety, ideal for tall pleaching. Does require clipping.



### **SYZYGIUM AUSTRALE**

These tall, upright lillypillies are quick growing, making them ideal for screens, and feature fantastic foliage colour.



### **MAGNOLIA GRANDIFLORA 'ST MARY'S'**

This evergreen magnolia variety is reasonably quick growing and is a good choice for tall screening, and responds well to Winter pruning if any shaping is required. It can also be grown effectively in large containers. During the warmer months it produces beautiful, creamy-white, fragrant flowers.