

About the Program

The Gympie Regional Council's **Free Trees for Ratepayers Program** supports the Gympie community's ability to contribute to our regional environment strategy of conserving and enhancing natural ecosystems, and promoting biodiversity, sustainability, and heritage.

Through this program, each ratepayer or landowner can receive two (2) free native tree or plant tubestock per rate notice, with a total of four available per year.

Note: Your quota is valid for 12 months

Why Take Part?

-  'Tube stock' plants (40/50mm pot size) have higher survival rates if well cared for
-  Local native plants are better adapted to local soils and weather
-  By planting natives on your property, you provide:
 -  Additional shade, assisting to cool our living/urban areas
 -  Increased nutrient and moisture in soils
 -  Provide suitable food & habitat for wildlife
 -  Increased scenic & biodiversity values on your property & the region

For more information

Scan the QR code or visit
gympie.qld.gov.au/free-trees-ratepayers



Program Partners



Gympie & District Landcare Group

350 Old Maryborough Road Araluen
p. 07 5483 8866
gympielandcare.org.au

At Gympie Landcare, we are focussed on making a difference. Driven by our vision of a healthy and abundant biosphere, we aim for positive outcomes for the environment, our community and kindred organisations.



Cooloola City Farm Nursery

17 Amity Place, Tin Can Bay, 4580
p: 0422 215 953
cooloolanatives.weebly.com

Small community run Native plant nursery stocking plants native to the Cooloola Coast area. At Cooloola City Farm Nursery we are passionate about Native Plants.



Don't have a need for your plants?

You can still support our region by donating them to eligible community groups. Head to the council link to learn more.



Choosing your plants

Consider what species best suit your location to make the most of your plants.

Priority Species List

Rare, unique, culturally or locally significant species. View this list at: gympie.qld.gov.au/gympiepriorityspecies

Choose Local

Locally endemic plants thrive better, are non-invasive, and support local native fauna. Replace invasive species with native alternatives.

Consider your site

- Choose natives suited to your area's soil, aspect/light availability, space and surrounds.
- Consider the mature plant size and root system, especially if planting near buildings, powerlines or pipes.
- Investigate or seek advice on the area's mapped 'regional ecosystem'.

Variety

Create structure and variety with ground covers, herbs, shrubs and trees. This will help to increase biodiversity and better supporting fauna.

Ask For Advice

Chat to Program Partner's nursery staff for advice on the best plants for your property.

Preparation & Planting

Preparation

Clear the site Remove debris, weeds, grass (30-50cm).

Soak Tube stock Sit plant tube in water 15-30min pre-planting.

Dig a hole Double the size of root ball (wide & deep).

Pre-water Pre-soak the prepared hole if soil is very dry.



Planting



- 1 **Handle with care:** Avoid damaging the roots.
- 2 **Position the tree:** Place top of root ball level with or just below the soil surface.
- 3 **Backfill gently:** Cover and fill around root ball. Press the soil gently to remove air pockets.
- 4 **Water well:** Thoroughly water plant & surrounding ground after planting.
- 5 **Mulch:** Apply mulch (5-10cm thick) around plant to retain moisture and suppress weeds. Ensure not touching trunk.

Seasonal Considerations

Young plants can be impacted by weather extremes:

- Frost-tender plants should be planted in spring (Oct-Dec). Choose sheltered position.
- Summer Planting - consider extra care, cover and watering.
- Gympie is usually dryest in Winter (Jun- Sept)

Caring for Your Plants

Watering

- **First week:** water every 1-2 days - **then maintain good soil moisture:** water deeply as needed until roots establish.
- More frequent watering in dry weather. Mature plants may require deep soaking during drought.
- Don't overwater, soil just needs moisture.
- Morning watering is best.



Mulching & Weeding

Maintain 5-10 cm of mulch while plants are young.

Weed regularly (especially lawn grasses) to reduce competition.

Protection

- Use shade cloth, mesh or tree-guards to protect from harsh sun, frost and/or grazing animals.
- Provide support with a stake or guy wires to prevent damage from wind in first 1-2 yrs.

Maintenance

Prune as needed Helps maintain the tree's natural shape, promote growth and remove dead/sick branches.

Monitor health Watch for pests or diseases - act promptly. Avoid harmful chemicals pesticides or fungicides.