

Koala Friendly Planting Guide



Koalas are strictly leaf feeders, eating a variety of species within the genus *Eucalyptus* as well as other species. Koalas can show preferences for certain species within a region but in some parts of the country, koalas may only feed on one or two species, often singling out particular favourite trees.

The following trees are recognised as important food trees in Ipswich

- **Queensland Blue Gum** (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*)
- **Gum-topped box** (*Eucalyptus moluccana*)
- **Tallowwood** (*Eucalyptus microcorys*)
- **Small fruited Grey Gum** (*Eucalyptus propinqua*)
- **Queensland Grey Gum** (*Eucalyptus major*)
- **Scribbly Gum** (*Eucalyptus racemosa*)
- **Yellow Box** (*Eucalyptus melliodora*)
- **Narrow-Leaved Red Gum** (*Eucalyptus seeana*)
- **Grey Gum** (*Eucalyptus biturbinata*)

The following trees are recognised as important shelter and secondary food trees

- **Narrow Leaved Ironbark** (*Eucalyptus crebra*)
- **Spotted Gum** (*Corymbia citriodora* subsp. *variegata*)
- **Broad Leaved Ironbark** (*Eucalyptus fibrosa*)
- **Brush Box** (*Lophostemon confertus*)
- **Pink Bloodwood** (*Corymbia intermedia*)

What should I plant?

Trees for koalas should be selected based on suitability for local soil type or landform. For best results, plant species that occur naturally. Vegetation in Queensland has been mapped as Regional Ecosystems (RE's) which describe the vegetation and its structure, as well as detailing the dominant tree species and soil types in particular areas. Obtaining a RE map of your property can assist in understanding which koala friendly trees are able to grow on your property. For example, a property on low lying alluvial flats will be highly suitable for planting Queensland Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*), whereas land on deep sandy areas may be more suited to Scribbly gum (*Eucalyptus racemosa*).

Take care to only choose species you can maintain as some plants will require more care than others and may need more time than you can provide. If planting a large site or a large number of plants, plan to plant in stages. This will reduce maintenance, enable trialling of species performance at your site and reduce losses if extreme weather conditions occur.

Where should I plant?



Look at a plan of your entire property and think strategically. This will help determine the design of your plantings with regards to location, shape, composition and size. Revegetation will be most efficient if you

work outwards from your healthiest native vegetation remnant. Starting to plant in the middle of an open paddock is much more difficult.

Planting can be used to produce the best results in situations such as:

- Expanding and buffering existing remnants. It is important that remnants and old trees are retained as these provide important habitat for many bird and mammal species
- Improving connectivity between remnants (corridor planting)
- Restoring riparian corridors and degraded habitats
- Restoring areas cleared of environmental weeds
- Preventing or mitigating soil erosion.

Only plant an area that you can realistically maintain. Remember that planting is only the first, as all revegetation sites will need ongoing monitoring, weed management, pest animal control and perhaps watering to ensure establishment.

Please be mindful of planting trees in small urban lots as large eucalypt species can be hazardous when overhanging houses or other infrastructure. Also be cautious when planting under or near powerlines and check with Energex for any requirements and conditions you may need to adhere to.

How should I plant?

Plant spacing

Plant spacing should replicate the habitat you are attempting to reinstate. Planting relatively close together can assist in minimising weeds and facilitating natural attrition. Wider plant spacing is better for mature trees,

however is likely to result in a slower start. Thinning may be required should vegetation be too dense as trees begin to mature.

Planting in rows with a mower width between rows is a useful way to easily control weeds between plants. Alternatively, shrub layers can be planted between rows. It is important that you do not attempt to revegetate a large area with a large number of trees as this will provide opportunities for weeds to establish.

The following table provides a rough guide to appropriate spacings for different vegetation types:

Vegetation Community	Distance Between Trees (m)	Canopy Plants Per Hectare*
Open forest (e.g. dry sclerophyll/ eucalypt forest and Brigalow)	5-10	500-1000
Woodland	10-20	250-500
Open Woodland	20-50	100-250

*Planting space for canopy species only. Other species including shrubs, ground covers and mid stratum species can be planted between canopy species.

When to plant

Planting should preferably be carried out after rain when the soil is moist. Try to avoid seasons where extremes of weather could be expected. February to April has traditionally been recognised as a good time to plant, along with spring months once the risk of frost has past.

Size and shape

Shape is important, because bushland with small perimeter or edge length relative to its area has greater resilience against threatening processes. For example, an area of bushland that is round or square will be less prone to weed invasion than a long and narrow strip, which has a greater area of bush 'accessible' to the invasion of weeds.

For more information

For more information on any aspect of planting for koalas in Ipswich visit ipswich.qld.gov.au/koalas

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