



New Seasons Deciduous Trees

At this time of the year garden centres will be receiving all their New Seasons Ornamental Deciduous Trees. It's cool weather and you are possibly not thinking much about the garden, but it is a most important time regarding the structure and composition of your little bit of Australia. This is when you can look at it with a critical eye and make those bold decisions to 'move this', 'remove that' or plant one or two ornamental deciduous trees. The beauty of a deciduous tree is that it will allow winter sun into the garden and house whilst giving cooling shade in the warmer months. Added to that is the fact that there are so many stunning varieties of trees to choose from.

Here are just a few to consider: The Forest Pansy Cercis Canadensis is incredibly beautiful with gorgeous, dark foliage preceded by lolly pink flowers, whilst many of the Crab Apples including Malus ioensis Plena and M. spectabilis are old favourites and guaranteed to flower in most gardens. Consider some of the Maple – Acer family such as A. October Glory. This colours up wonderfully well. The Crepe Myrtles, Lagerstroemia indica Indian Summer series are fantastic and as tough as anything as are some of the Ornamental Pears, Pyrus – look for Chanticleer. These are just a few – have a look at what is available and talk to your nursery person about the space available in your backyard. Garden Centres usually take their new stock in late June or early July. In many instances much of this stock is delivered 'bare root.' This means a leafless stick with a few branches and a clipped root ball covered in mud! Often garden centres will pot up these plants upon delivery to ensure they will have a good shelf life in retail. Otherwise, they might be 'healed in' to a bed of straw, soil or compost mix as a 'holding pen.' If you buy your tree 'bare rooted' it is important to have the spot back at home sorted out – the hole dug and the compost ready to back fill. Make sure the root system does not dry out – trim off any broken bits and plant with the graft union a few centimetres above the eventual soil level. If in a windy spot, ensure the young tree is staked firmly.

Two very important points: ALWAYS read the reverse of the plant label. This will show you where to prune the plant you have just purchased. Follow the instructions at planting time. Yes – you are cutting off some of the cost of the tree but it is for a reason and the tree will grow into a much better shape. Secondly, if you are purchasing a potted tree, the soil may well fall away from the root system, exposing young white root growth. Treat carefully and plant as if dealing with a bare rooted tree.

An ornamental deciduous tree can create a visual focal point in your garden and no matter what size the space is, there will be a tree to suit the spot!

Life's a garden – dig it!