



# Private Gardens and Street Trees

6 April 2018

## OVERVIEW

**For many people, a garden is an extension of their home. The Asbestos Response Taskforce (the Taskforce) supports homeowners to take plants, shrubs and trees from their affected property prior to settlement or after settlement with a permit.**

Private gardens and street trees are integral to the streetscape and surrounding neighbourhood. The ACT Government, as custodians of affected properties, will retain remaining trees where safe and possible.

## KEY DETAILS

- Safety is the key consideration when removing plants, shrubs and trees from an affected property.
- The ACT Government will maintain lawns whilst they are responsible for the affected property and will retain trees during demolition where possible.
- Free community based advice is available to help homeowners transition their plants, shrubs and trees to their new garden.

## RETRIEVING PLANTS, SHRUBS AND TREES FROM AN AFFECTED PROPERTY SAFELY

When removing plants, shrubs and trees, safety is the key consideration.

Homeowners returning to the property after settlement to retrieve belongings or plants, shrubs or trees must have a Permit to Enter Land After Settlement. Only persons named on the permit are permitted on the site. Refer to The Settlement Process Infosheet for more information - [www.asbestostaskforce.act.gov.au/settlement-process](http://www.asbestostaskforce.act.gov.au/settlement-process).

Any holes created by the removal of plants, shrubs or trees must be filled in and any hazards identified either prior to the pre-settlement inspection, or at the end of the permit period where a permit has been granted.

## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

- Water is switched off at the affected property upon settlement.
- The ACT Government, as custodians of affected properties, will retain remaining trees where safe and possible.
- The ACT Government will maintain lawns whilst the affected property is their responsibility.

## TIPS FOR SUCCESSFULLY MOVING PLANTS, SHRUBS OR TREES

- Where possible, time the move for the cooler months of the year from Autumn to early Spring.
- Try to transplant into similar locations and conditions that you are moving the plant from and protect them from intense sun, heat and wind.
- Always prepare the bed or planting hole in advance:
  - Holes should be deep enough and wide enough to accommodate the root ball and root system;
  - Work in plenty of compost;
  - Water thoroughly for about two days prior to transplanting. Consider adding some seaweed solution to help lessen transplant shock;
  - Build up a small mound of soil in the centre of the hole for the plant to sit on.
- Ideally, transplant during the early evening as this will help to minimise moisture stress.
- Soak the area around the plant before digging it out. Add seaweed solution to help lessen transplant shock.
- Prune the plant by one third, removing flowers, fruit and new growth, as these place extra demands on the plant.
- Dig out the root ball to match the size of the plant above the ground. The root ball you take should match the mass of the foliage above ground.
- Retain as much soil as possible around the root ball and wrap it in damp hessian to help retain moisture.
- Backfill planting holes with quality blend of garden soil and compost.
- Water the plant in thoroughly and keep moist, but not soaked for one to two weeks after transplant, slowly backing off the watering until the plant is established.
- Continue to remove flowers and fruit until the plant is well established to allow it to focus energy on root and foliage development.
- Feed plants in early Spring and Autumn with a slow release organic fertiliser.
- Keep the area free from weeds as they may compete for nourishment.

## ADVICE AND SUPPORT

Free community based advice is available to help homeowners transition their plants, shrubs and trees to their new garden. Contact Mick Burgess, Horticulturist, at [mickburgess@mail.com](mailto:mickburgess@mail.com).

Rodney's Plants Plus will provide homeowners with free plastic pots for transplanting, a free bag of potting mix, free satchels of Powerfeed and a 20% discount on their next purchase (full price items only; valid for 12 months).

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Call Access Canberra on 13 22 81 and ask to speak with the Asbestos Response Taskforce, or email [asbestostaskforce@act.gov.au](mailto:asbestostaskforce@act.gov.au).

## ACCESSIBILITY

The ACT Government is committed to making its information, services, events and venues as accessible as possible. If you have difficulty reading a standard printed publication and would like to receive this publication in an alternative format, such as large print, please phone 13 22 81 or email [asbestostaskforce@act.gov.au](mailto:asbestostaskforce@act.gov.au).



If English is not your first language and you require a translating and interpreting service, please phone 13 14 50 and ask for 13 22 81.

If you are deaf, or have a speech or hearing impairment, and need the teletypewriter service, please phone 13 36 77 and ask for 13 22 81.

For speak and listen users, please phone 1300 555 727 and ask for 13 22 81. For more information on this service visit [www.relayservice.com.au](http://www.relayservice.com.au).