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Planting Guideline for Septic System Areas

Some vegetation can cause major problems with a septic system. Roots can penetrate into the absorption drains and associated pipework and can cause blockages or breakages which prevent the septic system from functioning correctly.

Problems may be minimised by careful and appropriate placement of vegetation.

Below is a list of some suggested plants which have been found satisfactory, as suggested by the EPA Code of Practice.

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Phragmites australia</i>	
<i>Canna X Generalis</i>	Canna Lily
	Calla Lily
	Ginger Lily
<i>Acacia howittii</i>	Sticky Wattle
<i>Callistemon citrinus</i>	Crimson Bottlebrush
<i>Callistemon macropunctatus</i>	Scarlet Bottlebrush
<i>Leptospermum lanigerum</i>	Wooley Tea-Tree
<i>Melaleuca decussata</i>	Cross Honey Myrtle
<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i>	Swamp Paperbark
<i>Melaleuca halmaturorum</i>	Salt Paperbark
<i>Tamarix juniperina</i>	Flowering Tamarisk
<i>Eleocharis acuta</i>	Cannas
	Common Spike-Rush
	Buffalo / Kikuyu
	Geranium
	Hydrangeas
	Tall Wheat Grass
	Strawberry Clover
	White Clover
	Perennial Rye
	Bougainvillea

Note: Plants should draw water but not shade the system

The following listed plants should **not** be planted near drains (within 8m) due to the risk of pipe blockage.

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Eucalyptus Camaldulensis</i>	River Red Gum
<i>Eucalyptus Citriodora</i>	Lemon Scented Gum
<i>Fraxinus Raywoodi</i>	Claret Ash
<i>Eucalyptus Cladocalyx</i>	Sugar Gum
<i>Platanus – All Species</i>	Plane Tree
<i>Populus nigra, etc.</i>	Poplar
<i>Salix babyfonica, etc.</i>	Weeping Willow
<i>Alnus – All Species</i>	Alder

The above lists, although extensive are not exhaustive. It is suggested that if in doubt, expert guidance should be sought from appropriately qualified persons.