

## FAQ - Planting of Trees post Vardah

### Know about indigenous Vs Exotic (Naturalized) Tree Species:

Some exotics like Neruppokonrai(Gulmohur, Mayflower) and Iyalvaagai(Copper Pod, Peltophorum) are very susceptible, and have been the major casualties.

In Vardah, both types of trees have been damaged, but exotics have been uprooted the most.

In general indigenous species are better adapted to withstand natural calamities like flooding, winds, drought etc.

### 1. Why plant Indigenous trees?

To restore biodiversity! A Tree is an ecosystem, not a standalone entity. By planting indigenous trees, you are nurturing the fauna (insects, birds, mammals) associated with the tree.

Many indigenous tree species are disappearing/ have disappeared from our cities. It is our duty to revive these and pass them on to future generations.

### TREE PLANTING- WHAT, WHY AND HOW

### 2. What is the right tree species to be planted?

Please find the recommended Tree List at [Chennai Tree List](#).

### 3. What is the minimum distance from building / wall while planting?

From the building line, the sapling should be planted at a distance of

- 2ft to 3ft for medium\* trees
- 3ft to 5ft for large\* trees

From the compound wall, the sapling should be planted at a distance of

- Minimum 3ft for medium\* trees
- Minimum 5ft for large\* trees

Minimum distance between two trees - 15ft to 20ft

### 4. What is the right method of planting in urban areas?

There should be no hindrances to root growth. A pit of 2ft X 2ft X 2ft should be dug to place the saplings. The saplings must be transferred from bag to soil without damaging the root system.

### After planting care: Vital for the proper growth of the tree.

- Saplings must be provided a supporting pole or stake...for sapling of 5ft, a pole of 6ft, with 2ft under the ground. The sapling should be loosely tethered to the support using natural fibre like jute, coir etc.
- To help the tree grow straight, pruning of lower branches with a sharp knife/ scissors- must be done with bottom up strokes after the first year of the tree's life.
- Tree guards prevent the tree from being bent or vandalized.

Regular monitoring is the best way to ensure your tree's health!

**Economic options for a tree guard:**

Green garden mesh available at hardware stores, 4ft in height 3ft of mesh per tree. The mesh can be tied to 3 poles staked around the sapling. Poles are available at timber shops.

**5. What is the specification for aerated / soil area around the base of the tree?**

We suggest at least 1ft - 2ft diameter of aerated / soil area around the tree base for medium\* trees and at least 3ft - 6ft for large\* trees.

Medium\* trees - trees suggested for a road width of 20ft or 20-30ft

Large\* trees - trees suggested for a road width of 30ft - 40ft

In the above mentioned [Chennai Tree List](#)

**6. From whom do we get permission for planting on avenues and in public parks?**

Corporation of Chennai, the AE for your zone or the Local Panchayat Office.

**7. If the stump of the fallen tree still exists can I plant a new one nearby?**

Yes, you can. Better to plant a different species. Follow right planting techniques as advised above.

**8. How to ensure the health of the tree post cyclone?**

After a natural calamity, trees are distressed and susceptible to infections. Application of fungicides (consult a horticulturist) should prevent further damage.

**9. Can an uprooted tree be transplanted elsewhere? What is the procedure?**

Yes. If it is a mature tree. But it is expensive and success rate is not very high!

**10. After the cyclone, the tree has slanted but its health is fine. Should I try straightening it?**

OR

**If a tree was wind-thrown means the root system is partially intact, and the tree is leaning can it be revived?**

Yes, you can. First lope all the branches very carefully with sharp knife/ scissors- must be done with bottom up strokes. Apply cow dung or clay paste on exposed surfaces. Straighten the tree and tether it. Keep the ground slightly moist. Watering should be once in 4/5 days. Place a ring of dried leaves, coir around the base, at a distance of one foot from the tree trunk to retain moisture.

For any further questions / information please mail us at [nizhal.shade@gmail.com](mailto:nizhal.shade@gmail.com) or visit our website [www.nizhal.org](http://www.nizhal.org)