



MEDIA RELEASE

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BEAT THE HEAT ON TREES WITH FLEMING'S NURSERIES

As the mercury continues to soar across Australia, Fleming's Nurseries is setting out to help gardeners beat the heat with a set of useful tips to help keep trees glowing and growing through Summer '09.

Fleming's managing director, Wes Fleming, says it's important to get on the front foot in the garden this summer although some seriously hot days across the country may already have people concerned about the survival of their trees.

He said gardeners all over Australia, and those particularly in areas unused to extreme temperatures, have expressed concern about how their gardens are coping on 40-plus degree days.

"Gardeners whether experts, novices or black thumbs alike, can ensure their gardens have the best chance at surviving the record temperatures this year by following a few simple rules.

"Firstly the most obvious but often the most misunderstood is simply keeping the water up to trees. The best way to 'beat the heat' is by giving the garden a good deep soak, remember that a tree's root zone can be up to 600mm underground and we need to make sure the water penetrates.

"Don't panic, the bulk of the 'damage' we are experiencing is only superficial. The leaves are being burnt, but the plants themselves are fine.

"The leaves will fall off and the tree should regenerate but ensure you water the tree before in line with the water restrictions, to help it recover."

"For younger trees makeshift shade-cloths can help protect trees that are in the open and subject to the harsh sun, but don't forget to give them a drink also."

He said mulching trees during the high summer months is a very good idea – even on trees that appear well established.

"Placing mulch evenly around the base of a tree will help retain moisture for longer which works to keep the roots cooler and damper as the mercury risesAny old mulch will do.

"If you have purchased a tree the day before an extreme temperature day, don't plant it."

While trees ultimately benefit from cooler month planting, Wes says it is possible to plant in the summer months, but it does help to do so in a common sense way.

"Rather than plant on a really hot day, keep the pot wet until planting on a slightly cooler day," Wes said.

Finally he says the best option is to be a tree's best friend.

"People with pets that go on a holiday usually ensure they are looked after – make sure you think of your garden also. So before you leave give your garden a good deep soak and it will be in the best position to look after itself whilst you are away. "

For more information or to join our Insider for the latest information and news on trees, please log onto www.flemings.com.au

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