



School Shade Tree Ceremony

Teacher Information Sheet 8

Trees provide many benefits; food, shelter, and importantly, shade from the sun's harmful rays.

Overview

The School Shade Tree ceremony is the highlight of the Greentree Ants Program. The Schools Shade Tree ceremony is a part of the Greening Townsville program which supports Townsville schools to establish shade trees in school grounds, promote 'Sunsafe' practices and to foster partnerships between Council and schools by involving school children in greening and tree planting activities. Students will explore the importance of having trees in their school grounds and get hands-on experience in planting, looking after the plants and watching their garden grow. Council staff will prepare holes; provide mulch, fertilizer and plants. Students – and teachers – will have the opportunity to take seedlings home to plant in their own garden.

Activities

- » The division councillor will introduce the program to staff and students
- » Parks services will discuss with students the importance of shade trees in school grounds
- » Students will be introduced to aspects of safety when conducting plantings and how to ensure the survival of their plants
- » Students get hands-on experience in planting trees in their schools grounds
- » Students receive plants to take home and plant in their gardens

School Shade Tree Facts

- » Over 20 schools in Townsville have participated in the School Shade Tree Program since 2003
- » Trees provide natural, "low-tech" cooling Three well-placed trees can significantly cut costs for air conditioning during the summer months
- » Trees provide shade, reducing the "heat island" effect, which results from storage of thermal energy in concrete, steel and asphalt.
- » Trees absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂) and replace it with life-giving oxygen
- » Trees provide shelter for wildlife, reduce storm water run-off, prevent soil erosion, muffle noises, and provide privacy
- » Trees add beauty and grace to any school and/or community setting





Web Resources

- <http://www.soe-townsville.org/greening/>
- <http://www.soe-townsville.org/treeday/>
- <http://www.soe-townsville.org/schools/>
- <http://www.soe-townsville.org/communityeducation/education/>

Administration

Duration
2 hr

Max Students

1 year group

What's Required

Hats, sunscreen, closed in shoes, water, energy

Contact

Townsville City Council
Integrated Sustainability Services
4727 9525

Core Learning Outcomes

Science	SOSE
SS 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, D1.4 EB 1.1, 1.3 LL 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, D1.4	PS 1.3, 1.5
SS 2.1, 2.3 EB 2.3, D2.4 LL 2.2, 2.3, D2.5	PS 2.3 SRP 2.3, D2.6
EB 3.1, 3.3 LL 3.1, 3.3	PS 3.2, D3.6
EC 4.2 LL 4.3, D4.4	
EC D5.4	PS D5.6 SRP 5.1
	PS 6.3, D6.1

