



Scale 1:357

Tuesday, 9 September 2014

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Cape Lilac Trees, Jarrad Street



11026 9 9 2014



# ATTACHMENTS

2.9.2014  
TEL:

TO: TOWN OF COTTESLOE  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
CARL ASKEW.



FROM: PAMELA DOUGLAS  
12 JARRAD STREET  
COTTESLOE 6011.

## JARRAD STREET: CAPE LILAC TREES: CATERPILLARS.

In January 2014 we suffered a very severe plague of caterpillars caused by Cape Lilac Trees. We advised the Council and action was taken. During this period one Cape Lilac Tree was cut down.

We still have three Cape Lilac Trees on the verge in Jarrad Street. The trees are situated just as you cross Bardon Street heading west. These trees will need attention. Enclosed is the information from the Department of Agriculture which covers the subject.

We literally had hundreds of these caterpillars, with some entering the house and nesting in curtains.

We certainly do not want a repeat of what we suffered in January, 2014.

The purpose of this correspondence is to draw the Council's attention to the matter as time is near for some action.

I would appreciate acknowledgment of this correspondence so I know the matter is under control.

Pamela Douglas.



# White cedar moth

## Background

The cape lilac we have in Western Australia is *Melia azedarach*, which originated in the Himalaya region. Overseas it is called chinaberry or white cedar. It is closely related to the Australian form, *Melia azedarach* var. *australasica*, a native of New South Wales, Queensland and New Guinea, where it is more often called white cedar.

They are tough trees, and even complete defoliation causes only temporary stress, not death. The tree establishes very easily from seed, some spread by parrots — so many trees are chance seedlings. The golden berries, leaves, bark and flowers are very poisonous and smoke from burning wood contains toxic fumes.

## Recent history

White cedar moths have become endemic, especially in the Perth metropolitan area, because of the high number and close proximity of cape lilac trees. The caterpillars tend to be particularly bad for one or two seasons until people undertake control measures.

## Description and life cycle

The adult moth is grey-brown with a wingspan of over 40mm and black hairs covering the body. It lays greyish coloured eggs in neat clusters, usually on the tree or in woodpiles. It is mostly active at night and can also lay eggs under shade cloth and behind curtains.

Eggs hatch as brown-black hairy caterpillars with a faint yellow body stripe. They quickly grow up to 40mm long, feeding at night and only on cape lilac trees. They are sensitive to sunlight and while small hide under bark and in hollows of the tree, usually on the southern side.

As they get larger, they come to ground at dawn, either by crawling down the trunk or by dropping down on a fine web. They are looking for shady hiding spots, new trees to feed on and places to pupate. The caterpillars move quickly, and can cover 60 to 80 metres or more in a short time. Many will return to the tree at dusk or just after, crawling up the trunk to feed on the leaves. This daily movement up and down the tree can continue for a week or more.

Caterpillars are active during the warmer months, and there can be from three to five generations, five to six weeks apart. Activity generally starts in October through to December, but it can begin as early as mid September.

## Control

Like most insect pests, effective control is easiest early in their life cycle. Start control treatments in early October; or monitor for the pest weekly by shining a torch up into the canopy of the tree at dusk and start control measures at the first sign of activity.

## Trunk banding

Loosely roll up some material like hessian, old curtain material or shade cloth, and tie it around the trunk of the tree to form a band or collar. Sprinkle derris dust onto this band. These dusts can also be applied to the trunk and around the base of the tree. Caterpillars crawling up or down the trunk will contact the chemical, especially those crawling into the band to hide during the day. The first application of dust should be quite heavy, then lightly topped up every seven days, or after rain. Maintain treatments until the onset of winter. Derris dusts contains rotenone, a contact and stomach poison which should not be used near waterways as it is poisonous to fish.

## Contact spraying

The caterpillars can be sprayed directly with garden insecticides such as malathion, trichlorfon or pyrethroids like bifenthrin and cyfluthrin. To achieve good control mix the chemical at the strongest label rate. Add a wetting agent, like a household detergent, at up to 10mL per litre to the mixture, otherwise it may not penetrate the hairy body. Spraying is best done at dawn or dusk when the caterpillars move together as a group. Also spray the butts of the trees, fence lines and areas where the pest is known to hide during the day, like leaf litter, woodpiles, compost bins, patios and under fence-capping.

## Other measures

Chemical spray treatment of the cape lilac trees is usually impractical because of the size of the trees and the risk of spray drift. Organic preparations such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* applied to the leaves of smaller trees may have some effect on younger caterpillars.

Apply surface sprays around doorways and windows to prevent caterpillars coming inside.

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**Source URL:** <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/pest-insects/white-cedar-moth>

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## Important disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Agriculture and Food and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

## **STREET TREES**

### **(1) OBJECTIVE**

To recognise the environmental and aesthetic contribution that street trees make to the continuing development and presentation of streetscapes, by:

- selecting, planting and maintaining street trees, which enhance both existing and future streetscapes;
- creating a setting in sympathy with the function and appearance of the adjacent land uses, a safe and comfortable pedestrian environment, and cater for vehicular traffic;
- promoting the use of indigenous vegetation, including trees, on road reserves, to extend the habitat of native birds and animals in urban areas.
- to be read in conjunction with the Natural Areas Management Plan.

### **(2) PRINCIPLE**

The Town of Cottesloe is vested with the control of street and road verges. Street trees should be established on every street and road in the Town of Cottesloe, with one tree fronting every property, supported by proper systems of protection, watering, pruning and processes for species selection.

### **(3) ISSUES**

- A balance is required between the Norfolk Island Pine tree as the Cottesloe 'Icon' tree and other tree species.
- Many existing tree species in Cottesloe were poorly chosen in the past and these mature trees are providing a variety of problems.
- The large range of street verge widths, up to 15 metres wide requires flexibility in species choice and planting locations to achieve the one tree per property aim.
- Ratepayers and residents vary in their attitudes to street trees and individual trees may suffer damage or die from 'unknown causes' in areas where they cause problems to houses and properties.
- Street trees can be a major source of public liability concerns due to root damage of drainage, paths, kerbing and crossovers on the verge and a variety of problems in private property.
- Supporting street trees on every verge is an expensive task, requiring substantial annual budget support. Normal maintenance costs are ongoing and the cost of damage caused by street trees in major storms can be very high.

**(4) POLICY**

The Town of Cottesloe has demonstrated, in past years, its commitment to the amenity and visual image of the Town's streetscape by the introduction and maintenance of street trees.

This commitment will continue with the maintenance of existing trees and the establishment of new trees, based on the following conditions and requirements:

1. The Norfolk Island Pine tree is the icon or symbol of Cottesloe and shall be preserved.
2. The Town of Cottesloe shall aim at planting and maintaining one street tree per property frontage.
3. All individual street tree planting will be undertaken by Council staff. All other planting on verges, other than a lawn, will require a submission to the Town of Cottesloe for approval.
4. Tree pruning shall be aimed at producing a full canopy typical of the species, while still addressing legal obligations and the preservation of public safety. Major pruning may require the Manager Engineering Services to seek professional advice.
5. Tree removals must be seen as a last resort, used for dead and/or dangerous trees. Removal or pruning of street trees are only carried out at the discretion of the Manager Engineering Services. Any unauthorized pruning or removal of street trees may be liable for prosecution.

The following reasons do not justify tree removals:

- tree litter/leaf fall ("messy:" tree),
  - restoration of a view,
  - alternative species requested by resident,
  - a desire to re-landscape,
  - house alterations requiring crossover relocation,
  - shading of lawns, pools,
  - swimming pool installation – root or falling leaf problems,
  - perception that tree may fall in a storm.
6. A proposal to remove or replace multiple street trees in one street shall require an expert's report, public consultation and consideration by Council.
  7. For development or building approvals, plans and drawings submitted must include the locations of all street trees on abutting road verges for the consideration of the effects of such land or building changes on these street trees.

## TOWN OF COTTESLOE POLICY

8. A person or company identified as having damaged or removed a street tree(s) without Council approval, shall be required to provide full compensation to Council for all costs associated with the re-establishment of an advanced tree of that same species together with an assessed value determined by the Manager Engineering Services for the loss of amenity/aesthetic value of that tree(s).
9. The Town of Cottesloe will maintain a street tree species list of the most suitable tree species for the different soil and micro climate areas of the town, plus species determined as being no longer suitable for new planting as street trees.
10. For every street tree removed, at least one replacement tree will be planted, with an alternative location being chosen if the original location is no longer available.

**ADOPTION:** April, 2013

**REVIEW:** April, 2021

**14 Jarrad Street**

**Cottesloe WA 6011**

**15<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

**Attn Geoff Trigg**

**Manager Engineering Services**

**Cottesloe Council**

We are writing in response to a letter we received from you regarding the Cape Lilac trees in front of our property and that of our neighbours at 16A Jarrad Street.

Whilst we are aware of caterpillars being prevalent for short periods of time each year we have not been impacted negatively by their presence. They tend to congregate near our front gate, in particular by our refuse bins which are located just inside our property. Having read the agricultural department information sheet you supplied I suspect they are seeking shady, hiding spots.

If they are causing our neighbour problems then we are supportive of trialling any control measures the council wishes to undertake and would not even object to the Cape Lilac closest to our neighbour at 12 Jarrad Street being removed but we would be disappointed if all three trees were removed simultaneously without exploring available options as these trees provide invaluable shade to an extremely large verge as well as a food source to many local parrots and cockatoos.

We have spoken to our neighbour at 16A Jarrad Street and we hope they also respond to your letter as they indicated to us that the caterpillars had not been a major concern for them.

If ultimately the council decides that removal is to be undertaken can it please be noted that we request one tree be left insitu (the middle lilac) and that this tree is treated and monitored prior to a decision being made about its future.

Please continue to keep us informed regarding any decisions council makes on this matter.

Yours Sincerely

Donald & Linda Prendergast

**Siobhan French**

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**From:** Richard Carey Smith  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 14 October 2014 11:31 AM  
**Subject:** Ref: SUB/465

Dear Geoff,

In reply to your letter dated 1st October regarding the Cape Lilac trees/caterpillars on Jarrad Street we obviously don't want to see these trees chopped down so we would like the tree trunk banding trial. We understand that if this trial doesn't work then the trees will have to go.

Kind regards

Liz