



NEED HELP?

Curo

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Phone us 01225 366000



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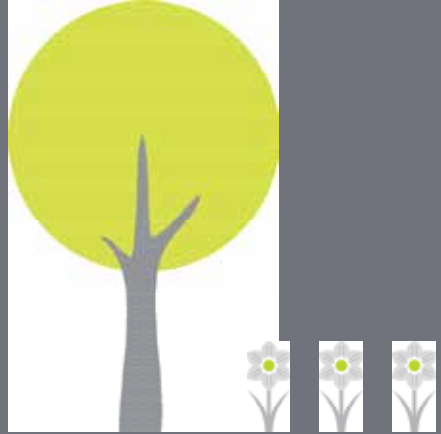
Live Chat via our website



Use on-line forms via our website

Visit us in Bath, Keynsham, Midsomer Norton or Bristol
Please see website for addresses and opening hours

If you would like this information in an alternative
format please get in touch.



Garden and tree guidance

Handy information
to help you look
after your garden



Garden and tree guidance

Well cared for homes and gardens make a big difference to how we all feel about our neighbourhoods.

We hope you'll enjoy using your garden and making the most of being outside. We have a few things we expect from you to help make sure our neighbourhoods are great places for everyone to live.

Please keep your garden neat, tidy, weeded and well-maintained. Grass needs to be cut at least fortnightly during the growing season.

Please keep trees, shrubs, hedges and bushes regularly maintained and cut or pruned at least twice a year. They should not overhang neighbouring homes, gardens, paths or roads.

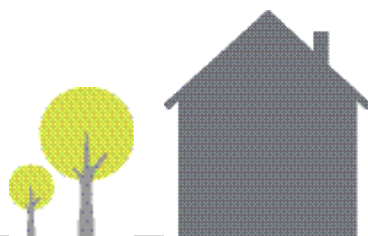
Keep your garden free from rubbish, litter, household furniture or other waste except for bins in a designated area and when bins are put out on bin day.

Climbing plants (like Ivy) must not cause damage to the property and should not cover windows, doors or be higher than 1.2 metres (4 feet) in height. Any damage caused by climbing plants is your responsibility to repair.

We ask you not to plant any notifiable weeds or particularly aggressive and invasive plants like Japanese knotweed or Bamboo, which may dominate your garden and spread into neighbouring properties.

Please don't store building materials and/or waste in your garden.

Front gardens should not contain washing lines, rotary driers or business advertising.



Garden and tree guidance

Driveways and lighting

Driveways must have a dropped kerb at the pavement edge and permission must have been received from Curo to install the driveway. You'll need to apply to your Local Authority for permission to install a dropped curb.

Any outdoor lighting should not have a negative impact on neighbours by 'flood lighting' their garden or home.

If you own a dog your garden must be appropriately fenced, maintained and free from dog mess.

Please keep the outside of your home well-maintained including cleaning the windows and front and back doors and making sure all furniture and meter box covers are in place.

Applying for consent

There are some things you may like to do in your garden which could require consent from us and/or planning permission from your local council. If in doubt it's best to ask. Here's some guidance on when you may need to apply for consent.

Boundary treatments

Installing a fence, wall or hedge as a boundary treatment will require our consent. We require fences, walls or hedges to be in keeping with similar structures in the area and to be constructed of suitable materials. We would not take on the responsibility for installation, repairs or future replacement.

Fences, hedges or gates to the front of the property must not be more than 1.2 metres (4 feet) in height. Fencing to rear gardens must not exceed 1.8 metres (6 feet) in height. All fencing, hedging and walls must be agreed with the neighbouring residents before any changes are made.



There are many plants and shrubs that work well to mark a boundary or to form a hedge. Some are slower growing like bay and privet whilst others will form a thick hedge in a few years such as laurel. Other shrubs which work well are hydrangea, holly, lavender or moss rose.

Sheds, buildings and other changes to the garden spaces

Consent should be requested from us to install:

- Shed(s)
- A garage
- A greenhouse
- A conservatory
- Any other building or semi-permanent structure
- Fencing
- A hot tub
- A patio
- Pond(s)
- Tree(s)

If you're considering installing or extending sheds, garages, a conservatory or a greenhouse it shouldn't overly dominate the garden. It also shouldn't obscure access to, or the view from, neighbouring properties. As well as obtaining our consent you may need to apply to your local council for planning permission.

Please also ask us for consent before keeping any pets or animals in the garden, including chickens.

To apply for consent email consents@curo-group.co.uk or call our Customer Contact Team on 01225 366000.

Garden and tree guidance

Curo in Bloom

Each year we run Curo in Bloom to celebrate the amazing gardens in our neighbourhoods. Look out for information and application forms on our website, social media and through our Local Voices Facebook page.

Trees for your garden

There are practical considerations to think about before applying for permission and planting a tree. If you're considering planting a tree in your garden you need to obtain consent from us.

Height and spread - always check the height the tree will grow to when mature and how far the roots will spread; this is one of the most important factors. Over time small ornamental trees may reach a height of 10 metres or more. If this is too much to manage, consider a weeping tree or even a large shrub.

While decisions are made on a case-by-case basis depending on the size of the garden and type of tree, there are some trees we are very unlikely to give you consent to plant, these include:

- Giant Redwood
- Monkey Puzzles
- Leylandii (and other similar conifers)
- Oak
- Willow
- Poplar
- Sycamore
- Eucalyptus
- Alder

Season of interest - consider when you want your tree to look good, thinking about flowering time, foliage, fruit and berries and bark colour. If you only have room for one tree ideally look for one with more than one season of interest such as fruit or autumn colour.

Purpose - is the tree purely for ornamental purpose in the garden or do you want to produce shade, screen an area, have fruit to feed your family or provide a habitat for birds? A good choice, planted in the right location can serve a

number of purposes. You may also want to consider whether the tree has poisonous fruit, berries, leaves or bark, for example Golden Chain (Laburnum).

Deciduous or evergreen -

both types of trees have their advantages, the obvious one for evergreens being that they keep their leaves in winter (they do drop some throughout the year). But you don't get the lovely autumn colours you do with a deciduous tree, however you do have to rake and pick up the leaves!

Trees for specific locations - think about the type of soil you have and whether the tree will be in sun or shade. You also need to consider the amount of shade the tree will create for your neighbours. Think about its size in the future and whether this may cause issues for you and your neighbours in the long term.

Trees and buildings - the proximity of a tree to any building or home must be considered. There can be risks in planting a tree too close, for

example the tree roots can affect the foundations of the building. This is one of the main reasons why you must request permission from us before planting trees.

Tree maintenance - If you plant a tree it's your responsibility to maintain it. Putting off maintenance can lead to trees becoming unmanageable and an expensive complex job once you do get round to it. Research and think about the frequency of pruning and cutting back, the tree's life span and whether you can maintain the tree yourself or will need to pay a professional tree surgeon.

There are many trees which work well in gardens whether they are



Garden and tree guidance

fruiting or ornamental trees. Here are some ideas to get you started but it is important to do your own research and choose a tree that's right for you, your family and your garden.

Fruit Trees

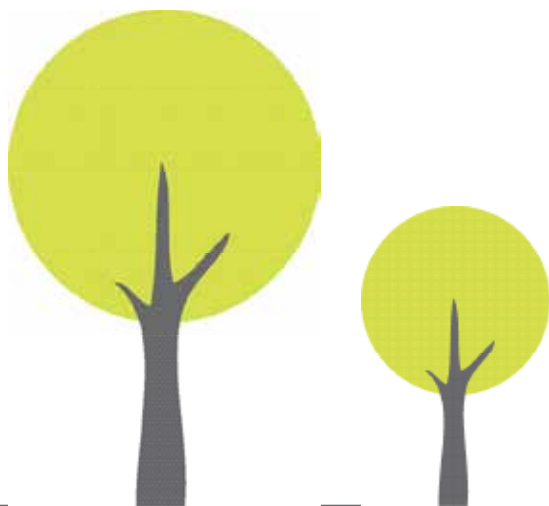
- Apple
Malus Domestica - 'Queen Cox'
Self-fertile, juicy red-yellow apples harvested from mid-October
Height: dwarf tree reaching 2 metres maximum
- Pear
Pyrus Communis - 'Conference'
Partially self-fertile pear, green-yellow sweet fruit from October to November

Height: medium from 2 metres to 8 metres

- Plum
Prunus Domestica - 'The Czar'
Self-fertile dark purple dessert plum, resistant to frost
Height: 2 metres to 5 metres

Ornamental Trees

- Malus evereste - Crab Apple Tree
Red buds turn into white flowers in April, in autumn orange-yellow fruits. The apples are inedible but will nourish local birdlife. It likes sun or partial shade and a moist, well-drained soil.
Height: 7m/23 foot
- Betula Utilis 'Snow Queen' - Himalayan Birch



Trunk and branches are a luminous white, if you plant red- or orange-stemmed dogwood nearby you are guaranteed drama throughout the dead season. It will tolerate most soils and sun or light shade.

Height: 5-12m/32 foot

- *Sorbus Aucuparia* 'Fastigiata' - Mountain Ash
This slow-growing rowan forms an elegant column producing clusters of white flowers in late spring, dark red berries in June and fiery autumn leaves. It would make a good focal feature in a town garden because of its tidy shape and tolerance of pollution. It will also weather extremes of heat and cold and the odd drought.
Height: 8m/24 foot

- *Pyrus salicifolia* 'Pendula' - Weeping Pear
An ornamental, inedible, pear that weeps willow-like and compactly. In spring it erupts into dense clusters of creamy white flowers. Despite its dainty appearance it is a toughie. Provided it gets full sun it will put up with any well-drained soil, it is content in an exposed site and is resistant to drought and cold.

Height: 5m/16 foot

- *Arbutus Unedo* - Strawberry tree
An evergreen which works equally well in a shrub border or, if you trim off side branches from the main trunk, as a standalone tree. It has ruddy-coloured shredding bark and leathery leaves, autumn brings white flowers, followed months later by round 'fruits' that ripen from yellow to red. You can eat them – but they're probably not worth the effort. It needs a sunny site sheltered

Garden and tree guidance

from cold winds.

Height: 10m/26 foot

- Acer Palmatum 'Sango-kaku' -
Coral Bark Japanese Maple

In winter it has coral red young branches followed by pinkish green leaves they darken to a rich green backdrop for summer borders. Then in autumn the whole tree turns butter yellow. It copes with most kinds of soil in partial shade and won't mind a drought.

Height: 6m/18 foot
