

Heritage Tree Care Guide

Koompassia malaccensis (Kempas)
HT 2020-311



Alstonia angustiloba (Common Pulai)
HT 2005-130



Maranthes corymbosa (Sea Beam)
HT 2001-30

Heritage Trees

Mature trees are part of the natural heritage of Singapore and serve as important green landmarks in our City in Nature. Heritage Trees are a special group of trees noted for their botanical, social, historical, aesthetic and/or cultural significance.

It is important to conduct regular checks on the health and vitality of these valuable natural assets. Installation of a Lightning Protection System (LPS) is recommended for greater attention and care. LPS helps to protect tall trees which might be susceptible to lightning strikes. LPS should be maintained regularly for effectiveness.

5 Points to Note in Heritage Tree Checks

It is recommended that a practising Certified Arborist (CA) carries out Visual Tree Inspections (VTA) of Heritage Trees at a frequency of once to twice a year.

If there are signs or areas of concern, detailed diagnostic inspection using advanced detection devices (e.g. resistance drills and sonic tomography system) can determine if any follow-up action is required.

When visually inspecting trees (VTA), the CA will check and observe many aspects of the trees including the following:



1

Whole tree



2

Root system and surrounding soil



3

Trunk



4

Branches and crown



5

Lightning Protection System

Heritage Trees Maintenance Tips

Watering

Mature established trees generally do not require supplementary watering in addition to rain.

However, if there is a prolonged hot and dry period, it is advisable to water or increase the frequency of watering the tree.

Watering should be extended to the tree's dripline, and not just immediately around the trunk.



Mulching

Mulching with mature compost helps trees in urban areas by reducing soil compaction, protect plant roots from drying out and provide nutrients that support trees' health and growth.



Mulching is best done when the soil is moist. It is important to keep mulch moist especially during dry weather.



Before mulching (left) and after mulching (right).

Fertilising

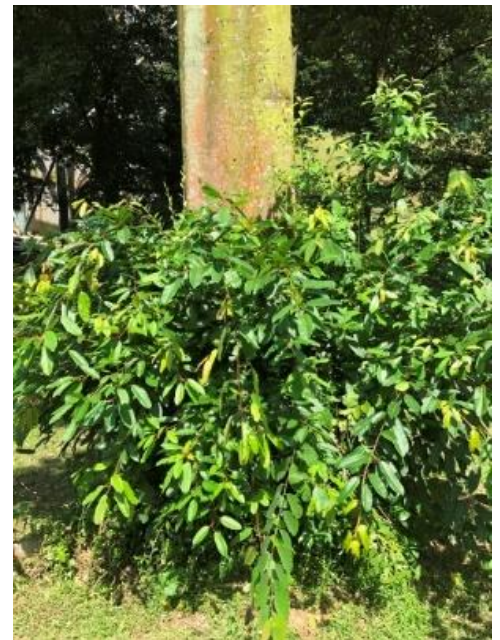
Mature established trees generally do not require supplementary fertilising, and this should be considered on a case-by-case basis. A Certified Arborist or maintenance contractor would be able to advise accordingly.

When applying fertilisers make sure the soil is moist to avoid root burn.

Dense Undergrowth

Dense growth of plants or epiphytes can hide the trunk or branches from view and impede VTA.

Consider limiting dense undergrowth by pruning back or removing where necessary.



Dead branches

It is normal for mature trees to shed branches. A dead branch may be more prone to breakage and this is part of the natural shedding process.

Regular inspection by a Certified Arborist would identify these dead branches for removal.

Tree Care FAQs

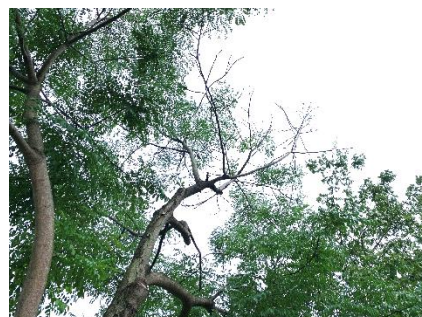
1. When is dry weather typically expected in Singapore?

February and March are typically described as the driest months of the year in Singapore. This is expected as the Northeast Monsoon enters its drier phase.

From long-term weather trends, the months of May to July tend to be relatively dry.

2. What are the potential signs of water-stress for non-deciduous species?

- Excessive shedding of leaves.
- Dieback of leaves. The absence of varying degrees of tree foliage from the tips or end of branches, usually observed on more than one area across the entire tree crown.



Excessive shedding of leaves (Left) and dieback of leaves (Right)

3. What should I do if there are development or construction activities around my Heritage Tree?

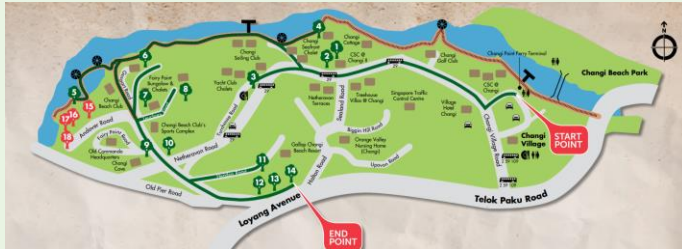
Please contact the Heritage Tree Secretariat at nparks_urban_gardening@nparks.gov.sg before commencing these activities to discuss how best to protect your Heritage Tree e.g., setting up a Tree Protection Zone (TPZ).

Outreach Activities

• Learning Journeys

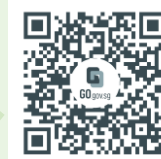
Exploration Tours

Explore the Heritage Trees nestled in different corners of Singapore and learn their interesting stories.



Heritage Trees Walking Trail

• Changi



<https://go.gov.sg/heritagetrees-changi>

• Chinatown



<https://go.gov.sg/heritagetrees-chinatown>

• Fort Canning Park



<https://go.gov.sg/heritagetrees-fcp>

• Pulau Ubin



<https://go.gov.sg/heritagetrees-pu>



Roadshows and Exhibits

Nurturing interest in Heritage Trees and Heritage Roads among children and adults through educational exhibits and games.

Community Sharing

Talks on the importance of conserving our green heritage at schools and libraries.



• Storyboards and Signs

As part of the Heritage Tree Scheme, NParks installs a storyboard or name tag for each Heritage Tree to share about the tree species and the reason why it was selected as a Heritage Tree..



(Left to right) Storyboard and name tags.

Contact Us

Please email or visit us on the NParks Heritage Tree website for more information.

Email: nparks_urban_gardening@nparks.gov.sg

Website: <https://go.gov.sg/heritage-trees>

