

Planting around Tennis Courts

Tennis court maintenance is an evil necessity that comes with the running of a tennis club.

No matter what playing surface your club has, it needs to be maintained. Excess debris from nearby trees, shrubs and gardens can dramatically increase the cost of maintaining tennis courts. Here are some Do's and Don'ts for planning for trees around your facility

Do



- **Select plantings wisely near tennis courts.** Use the professional advice of a horticulturalist or a landscape architect to select suitable species with non-evasive root systems and limited height.
- **Be mindful of the orientation of the courts, the trees and the sun.** Courts often become damp because of heavy plantings on the northern & western sides which create dark, damp areas that in turn encourage algae growth.
- **Lop existing trees & shrubs away from the courts fence.** Be mindful of leaf drop (deciduous & gum trees), fruit drop and heavy foliage that pushes against or overhangs the fencing.
- **Install tree root barriers** to protect the courts from tree root invasion.
- **Keep your courts drainage system clear** of debris and tree roots.



Don't



- **Plant trees or shrubs too close to the courts.** This can result in tree root invasion, fluctuating moisture changes around and beneath the pavement.
- **Allow existing trees or shrubs to grow too large when close to the courts.** The fencing can end up being pushed over or damaged from the pressure of the limbs.
- **Don't allow tree branches to overhang the tennis courts.** This can result in increased litter drop, risk to participants and possible obstruction to lighting performance. See the picture below showing a court covered in the fruit from a "Lilly Pilly" tree.

