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1. Overview

Green Wave is a multi-year global campaign that enables children and youths to make a difference – one school, one project, and one step at a time. The programme brings together children and youths from around the world to raise awareness about biodiversity, and the need to reduce its loss. As part of the campaign, students from around the world will plant locally important trees in their school compounds annually at 10 am on 22 May, the International Day for Biological Diversity. In Singapore, this programme is organised by NParks as part of the Community in Nature initiative. Find out more about Green Wave at greenwave.cbd.int/en/about-greenwave.

Through the programme, students can learn about the importance of trees as they provide a range of goods and ecosystem services, such as producing oxygen, improving air quality, providing habitats for wildlife, reducing soil erosion and serving as a carbon sink by absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Having trees around can help to mitigate the effects of climate change. Trees provide shade and can block most of the sun's radiation. In urban landscapes, they improve the aesthetics of the environment, reduce noise pollution, and help to counter the heat island effect, hence offering naturally cooler and more comfortable spaces. Trees provide shade for shrubs and other smaller plants, support for climbers, and microhabitats for epiphytes to grow, all of which attract a rich variety of fauna. Thus, they greatly increase biological diversity in urban environments, promoting species richness and creating ecological resilience.

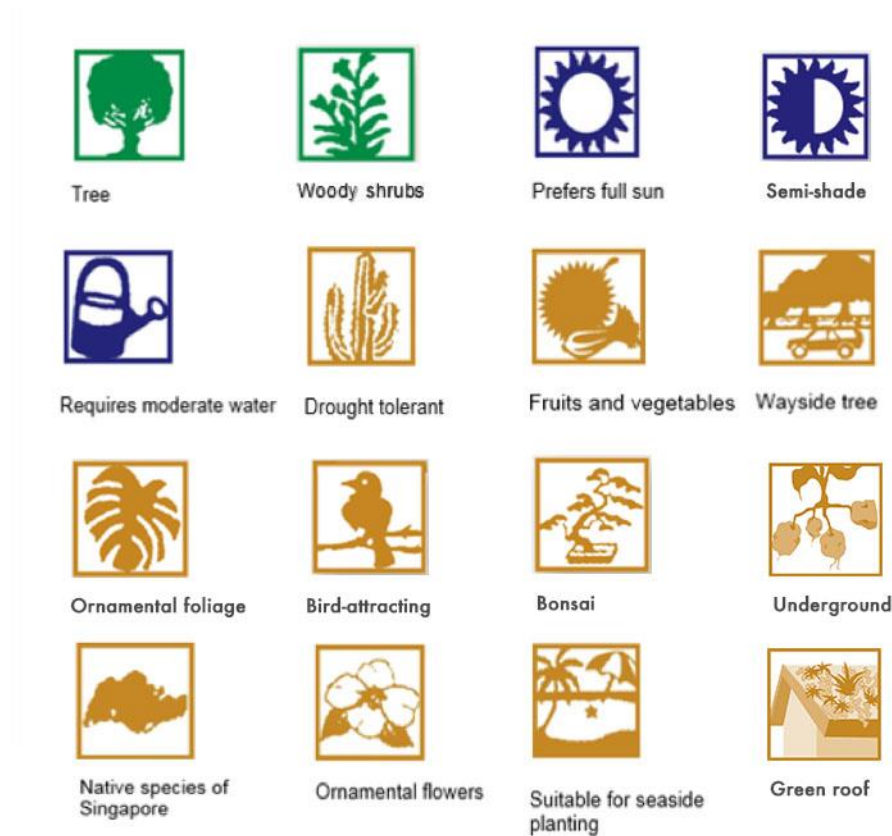
As Singapore continues to urbanise, we should all strive to keep our City in a Garden green and vibrant.



2. Green Wave 2018 Plant Species

As part of Green Wave 2018, NParks will be providing the following trees or plants to participating schools on a first-come, first-served basis. Each school can indicate which species it would like to plant. Schools which do not have space to accommodate a tree can request a potted plant instead.

Legend for plant care instructions



For more information about trees and other plants in Singapore, you can check out NParks Flora&FaunaWeb at florafauweb.nparks.gov.sg and trees.sg.

a. Trees

Garcinia atroviridis

Common names: Asam Gelugor, Gelugor

Height: Medium (16 – 30 m) Canopy width: 2 – 4 m



Garcinia atroviridis is a native, medium-sized tree naturally found in forests. It produces large flowers with crimson petals which are faintly fragrant. The fruits resemble tiny pumpkins; they are roundish in shape and orange-yellow when ripe.

The fruits and leaves are edible. The fresh fruits or dried fruit slices are used as a seasoning or sour relish (*asam gelugor*) in cooking, including curries. Traditionally, juice from the leaves is used by women after childbirth. Essence from the leaves and roots can also be used to treat earaches.



The flowers of *Garcinia atroviridis* are faintly fragrant or odourless.

(Photo credit: Ang Wee Foong)



The edible fruits are slightly round and orange-yellow when ripe.



Garcinia atroviridis has a columnar form.
(Photo credit: Boo Chih Min)

Podocarpus polystachyus

Common names: Sea Teak, Jati Laut, Jati Bukit, Podo Laut, Setada, Sentada, Sintada

Height: Medium (16 – 30 m) Canopy width: 3 – 5 m



Podocarpus polystachyus is an evergreen, coniferous tree. It naturally grows along rocky and sandy seashores, at the landward edge of mangrove forests, and on coastal cliffs. It is a non-flowering species with male and female cones borne on separate trees. The female cones develop singly and each consists of a single ovule on a fleshy, somewhat cylindrical receptacle about 6 mm long.

The swollen, red receptacle of *Podocarpus polystachyus* is known to be edible and sweet, while its leaves may be used to treat painful and rheumatic joints. It is also an important source of softwood timber called Podo Wood or Podocarp timber. The wood is used as a light to medium-weight softwood timber for interior work, beams, framing, furniture and oars. *Podocarpus polystachyus* prefers full sun, and is tolerant of many soil types.



The seed is green upon maturity, with a fleshy bright or dark red receptacle.
(Photo credit: Ang Wee Foong)



The leaves of *Podocarpus polystachyus* have healing properties.
(Photo credit: Boo Chih Min)



Podocarpus polystachyus has an irregular growth form.
(Photo credit: Boo Chih Min)

b. Potted Plant

Arundina graminifolia

Common names: Bamboo Orchid, Bird Orchid, Kinta Weed, Phanyar

Height: Small (1.2 – 2.5 m)



Arundina graminifolia is commonly found in Singapore. It is naturally found in open areas, grass habitats and rocky places, on mountains and next to streams. This species is commonly cultivated as an ornamental. There is also a highland variety of this orchid which is eaten in East Malaysia. The flower is bitter when stir-fried and is used to regulate high blood pressure.

Arundina graminifolia is easy to grow and prefers full sun, which is important to induce flowering. The soil should be kept moist.



The large, 5 by 5 cm flowers develop in shoots at the tips of the stems.
(Photo credit: Ang Wee Foong)

3. Timeline of Events

