

Green your neighbourhood right

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Sapling-planting initiatives are inevitable on World Environment Day. Though Chennai is facing a severe case of water scarcity, such exercises are likely to take place on June 5. So, for those who have decided to go tree-planting, here are a few points they will do well to remember First things first. June is not the best of times to start a tree-planting drive in Chennai. Certainly, not this June. But every year, a tree planting drive will be among the initiatives high up on most people's to-do list for World Environment Day. For those who choose to ignore water is really scare now, here are a few things they should bear in mind before starting a tree-planting drive. Prior approval is required if you want to plant saplings



at public places, which may include the space around a lake or on pavements. One must get permission from the department concerned. If the chosen place is a road or a street within Chennai Corporation limits, a requisition letter must be sent to the Chennai Corporation Commissioner or the Regional Deputy Commissioner, clearly detailing how you plan to oversee maintenance of the saplings for at least a year. This undertaking is a must, for that alone guarantees that there will be a sense of ownership about the saplings. Always go for native species, which are more resilient during difficult weather conditions. Vaghai, Punnai, Magizham, Arakonnai, Magizham, Punnai, Poovarasu, Iluppai and Veppilai take deep roots and are capable of withstanding gusty winds in the event of a heavy rain or a thunderstorm. Many organisations like Tree Bank, Nizhal, Environmental Society of Mandavelli, Environmental Foundation of India and Forest department help resident groups carry out a tree-planting exercise. Some of them even supply saplings. Also, check out Forest Department's mobile app 'Treepedia', which guides people on the right tree species to be chosen. A study of the proposed area is necessary, and this involves an effort to understand the soil, and availability of water there. Let the saplings be spaced apart adequately, so that they are able to spread their roots well. Also, avoid places where high tension wires are running overhead. Finally, make sure you have a committed volunteer group who will nurture saplings for at least six months.

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