



Invasive Trees: Seller's Checklist

For Cape Town homeowners, estate agents and conveyancers · Based on the NEMBA Alien and Invasive Species Regulations and Lists, 2020

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What the 2020 rules say

- **Whoever owns or controls the land** must eradicate Category 1a species, control Category 1b species, and stop Category 1a, 1b and 3 species spreading (regulations 2, 3 and 7). **After transfer, that duty is the buyer's.**
- **Category 2 permits can move with the property:** the new owner of the same land takes over the permit and must notify the issuing authority within 30 days (regulation 31).
- **The old seller-notification rule no longer applies.** The 2014 rule requiring sellers to notify buyers (regulation 29) was repealed on 25 September 2020, and the 2020 regulations don't repeat it. Written disclosure is still sensible practice. Ask your conveyancer how the offer to purchase should handle it.

Before you list: 9 steps

- ☐ **1 Walk the whole property:** back boundary, verge side, any stream or drainage line. Note every tree and large shrub you can't name.
- ☐ **2 Identify anything uncertain:** use the City of Cape Town's Invasive Plants Identikit, upload photos to iNaturalist or iSpot, or ask a tree professional.
- ☐ **3 Check each suspect species against the 2020 list,** including any Western Cape, urban-area or riparian wording.
- ☐ **4 List the invasives present** with category and location (e.g. "Port Jackson, 3 young trees, back boundary, Cat 1b").
- ☐ **5 Find any Category 2 permits** and keep copies ready for the buyer.
- ☐ **6 Decide: remove or disclose.** Remove Category 1b trees before listing, or tell the buyer and let them factor in the cost.
- ☐ **7 Before removing anything,** confirm it isn't protected, a heritage tree, in a Heritage Protection Overlay Zone, or City-owned (verge trees belong to the City).
- ☐ **8 Put it in writing:** give the buyer the list and any permits, and ask your conveyancer to cover it in the offer to purchase.
- ☐ **9 Keep records:** the list, the buyer's acknowledgement, and invoices and photos of any control work.

Buying?

Ask the seller for a written list of listed invasives and permits, walk the garden yourself, and budget for any Category 1b control you'll inherit.

Common Cape Town trees: 2020 category

Tree	Category
Port Jackson (<i>Acacia saligna</i>)	1b
Rooikrans (<i>Acacia cyclops</i>)	1b
Long-leaved wattle	1b
Australian myrtle	1b
Silky hakea	1b
Oleander	1b
Chinese wax-leaved privet	1b (W Cape)
Syringa	1b; 3 in urban areas
Black wattle · Australian blackwood	2
Grey poplar	2
Cluster & Monterey pine	1b*
River red gum & other listed gums	Location-based*
Camphor tree	3 (W Cape)
White mulberry · Tipu tree · Aleppo pine	3
Jacaranda	Not listed (W Cape)

* **Pines:** 2 in plantations and windrows. Trees with a trunk circumference over 1.256 m (at 1 m height, August 2014) are not listed in urban Cape Town unless riparian, in or next to a protected area, or ruled a wildfire risk. **Gums:** 1b in riparian and protected areas and the fynbos biome. In urban areas, trees over 400 mm in diameter at publication are not listed outside those areas. National Heritage Trees are not listed. Always check the full list.

Who to contact

- **City of Cape Town Invasive Species Programme:** 021 444 2357 (sightings form on the City website; not for removal requests)
- **Lists and categories:** invasives.org.za and the DFFE website
- **Your sale:** your conveyancing attorney
- **Removal:** Michael's Tree Felling, insured, Cape Town since 2014 · +27 81 381 3804