## **GARDEN** Hints and Tips

# Tree Selection

Tree selection is one of the most important investment decisions a homeowner makes when landscaping. When a tree's wet and dry soil conditions persist for months or even years, a tree's health and survival is severely impacted.

#### TREE SPECIES

Choose species that are native to your area. If the area is always wet, use plants that tolerate wet soil and do not mind being waterlogged.

### SUITABLE LOCATION

Conditions to consider before selecting a tree for planting are soil conditions, drainage and space constraints. Test the soil's pH, salinity and nutrients.

#### SPACE CONSTRAINTS

Always take into consideration a tree's mature height. Factors such as utility wires, concrete roads, driveways and structures can limit the space available for planting.

### IMPROVE SOIL DRAINAGE

For soil with heavy clay content, add organic material to improve soil structure and nutrition, which helps drainage along with increasing the soil's capacity to absorb water. Install drainage pipes to take the water away.

