

How To Make Trees

This PDF file is designed to show you how to make trees out of one of the most common plants in a lot of gardens - The common Diosma plant.

Most items on making trees refer to a specific plant which in most states is classed as a weed. In Western Australia we have strict quarantine laws designed to stop these plants from entering WA; therefore we can not use them. The Diosma (**Botanic name:** *Coleonema pulchellum* (formally known as *Coleonema pulchrum*.) is found growing all over Australia, making it a perfect specimen for trees. When it shrubs out, the areas look like miniature tree trunks and when cut off and greenery added, miniature trees.

This is what the original plant looks like:



These are growing outside our front window. These are healthy specimens, but when they die off, that is the ideal time to get them. Even if you have a neighbour or person down the road, if it is dying off, ask if you can have it.



Next is to cut it into clumps of bushes. This is just one clump off a bush that has died off. The colour looks a little funny in this picture as I took the picture as the sun was going down. This clump of branches will probably do more than 30 trees.



In the above pictures you can see that I have isolated a small clump of branches. I then cut the next section up creating smaller branches. In the right hand picture I could make at least 5 tree trunks out of this piece. Below you can see that I have a single branch which I think is OK for a tree. Roughly trimming the top and sides to a sort of tree shape (I usually do it randomly) I create a tree trunk with lots of branches. One thing about the diosma is it has fine pieces of 'branches' on it that look like old offshoots. This will look better than just a trunk and a few branches.



Here are the 4 of 5 trees that I made from that one branch above. See the unusual and random shape of the trees, and thin branches too!



For the branch tips and leaves, I use Woodland Scenic Foliage Clusters. They come in three base colours - Light, medium and dark green. The above picture is for the light green foliage. Take the large clumps out of the bag and start by pulling small clumps off the main piece. These will become the tops of the trees.



Next get the wood glue bottle and stick the end of the bottle on one of the stronger branches. You will know which ones are the strongest to do this with once you have done 3 or 4 of them.



In the above photo's, I have put the glue onto the end of the branch, grabbed a small clump of foliage cluster that you pulled off the main clump earlier and push it on the glued branch carefully! I sometimes do 1 of 2 things to make this easier. Firstly, I move the clump left to right and 'drill in' the clump. Another thing is to make a small hole in the clump before you start, therefore just making it easier to push it straight on. Most the time, it will just slide on. Don't worry too much about the thin ones, as these will look good on their own.



Here is a tree started with the first clump on. Continue and do as many of the others branches as you like.



Here is a completed tree with all the branches on. I usually do a forest full of trees in the lounge room while listening to the TV. I can do about 50 trees in half an hour using this technique.

Below is a couple of layout photo's that show how the trees look. The pictures here are only an example of how it can come out. I have used quite a few different ideas and I think that these come out the best, and most realistic.

John Rumming.

