

Save the trees from deer damage with knitted tree protectors !

Feral deer often strip the bark off native trees in urban bushland and also off street trees around Brisbane.

Jindalee Bushcare Group, who restores large areas of the Mount Ommaney Bushland Reserve, is putting knitted protectors around trees whose trunks have been partially stripped by feeding deer. This is to prevent further damage to the trees and to save them from being completely ringbarked which would kill them. So far, this experiment has been successful!

There are so many affected trees, that the group would greatly appreciate some help in knitting the protectors. Get out your yarn left over from knitting winter woollies and start knitting! Or you can crochet...

Colours need to be 'natural', to blend into the bushland, e.g. brown, grey, beige, charcoal, olive, dull green, mustard, burnt sienna. A combination is good!

Pattern

Needle size - 7.5 mm or 8 mm (Imperial sizes 1 and 0 respectively) – but any large size needles will do.

Wool – any ply from 5 ply to 12 ply.

1st row - Cast on 40 to 50 stitches in a heavier ply wool.

Note - You may need to adjust this number depending on whether you are a tight or loose knitter, but the rectangle should end up measuring **approximately 30 to 40 cm wide**.

2nd & subsequent rows - knit in garter stitch, in random rows of each colour (and ply) to obtain a multi-coloured or "camouflage" effect.

Continue knitting until work measures a minimum of **75 cm to up to 1.2 metres in length**.

Last row & cast off - Do this in a heavier ply wool (as for first row)

Attach lengths of wool (preferably heavier ply) at approx 15 cm intervals down the length of both sides of the tree protector so it can be tied around the tree.



Feral deer have eaten bark off this tree



Bushcarers tying on a tree protector



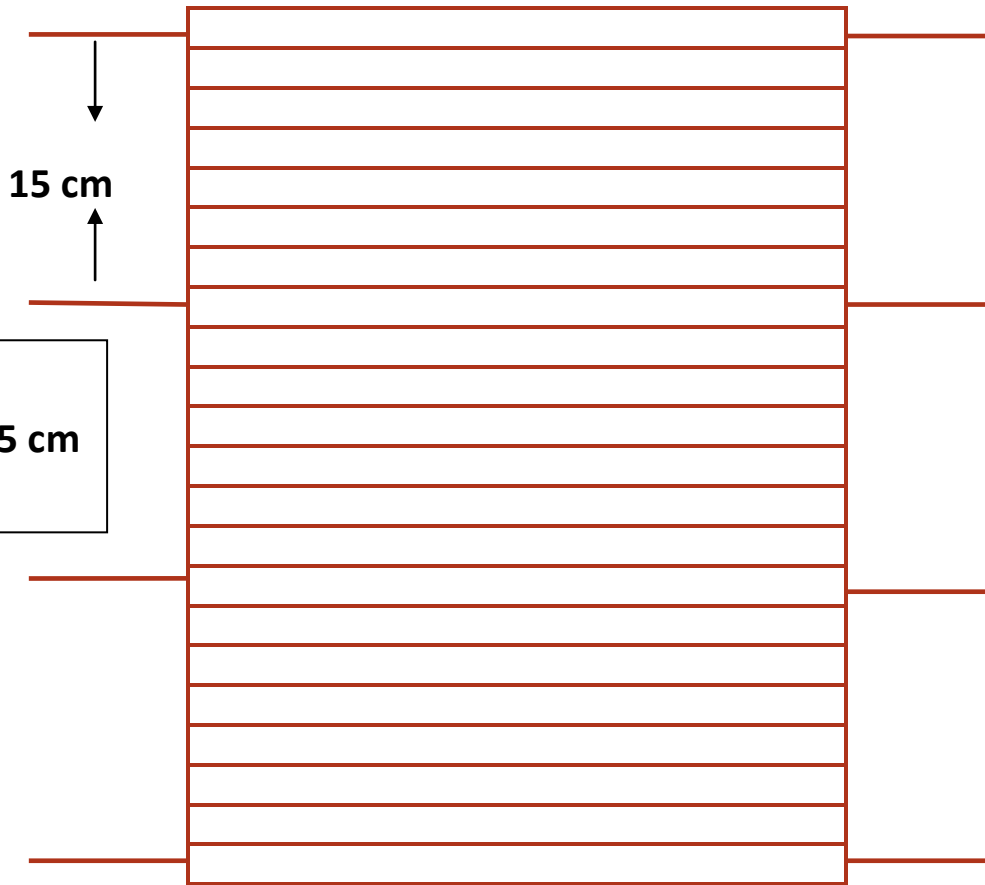
Tree protector

Pattern Layout

Top

Width - approximately
30 to 40 cm

Ties – minimum
20 cm long



Length -
approx. 75 cm
to 1.2 m

Bottom

When you have finished, please leave your tree protectors at:

Cr Matthew Bourke's office:
Shop 146A Mount Ommaney Centre
171 Dandenong Road
QLD 4074

P 07 3407 7000

E jamboree.ward@ecn.net.au

You can also phone Shealagh on 3376 1287 to arrange collection.

This pattern is available on the *Centenary and District Environment Action* website: www.cdea.org.au

THANK YOU!