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Expert: Know tree type and ideal location before planting

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THE public have been advised to identify the type of tree and its suitability to grow in a certain location to ensure that the tree can grow well, thus, ensuring the success of the 100 Million Tree-Planting Campaign 2021-2025.

Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) Floral Biodiversity Programme head Dr Richard Chung said the choice of tree species should be suitable for the planting area, provide benefits to the environment and help in conservation.

In large areas, the planting of just one or two species of trees should be avoided. Instead, planting a variety of species would help create a stable environment.

“The choice of species must meet the purpose of planting and land suitability, including prioritising local tree species, fast-growing trees which require minimum care, deep roots, suitable soil conditions, fewer leaves, branches or less fruit fall and no poisonous fruits.

“Many are interested in planting forest trees in their garden without realising that

these trees will cause maintenance problems like uncontrolled growth or damage to public amenities,” he said

The 100 Million Tree-Planting Campaign 2021-2025 was launched in January as part of the Greening Malaysia programme.

According to Chung, tree species could be identified through natural habitat or using field and herbarium features.

He said that among the natural tree habitats in the country were the hill dipterocarp forest, upper hill dipterocarp forest, mountain oak forest, mountain ericaceous forest, marine swamp forest, peat swamp, freshwater swamp, riparian edge forest, coastal forest and limestone forest.

“The field characteristic used to identify the trees are the shape and colour of the tree canopy, the nature and colour of the tree trunk, the surface and colour of the tree bark, colour, rubber, arrangement and smell of the tree bark.

“The herbarium features used to identify tree species are through the characteristics and types of leaves, flowers and fruits that need to be evaluated to accurately identify the species of the tree,” he said. **Bernama**