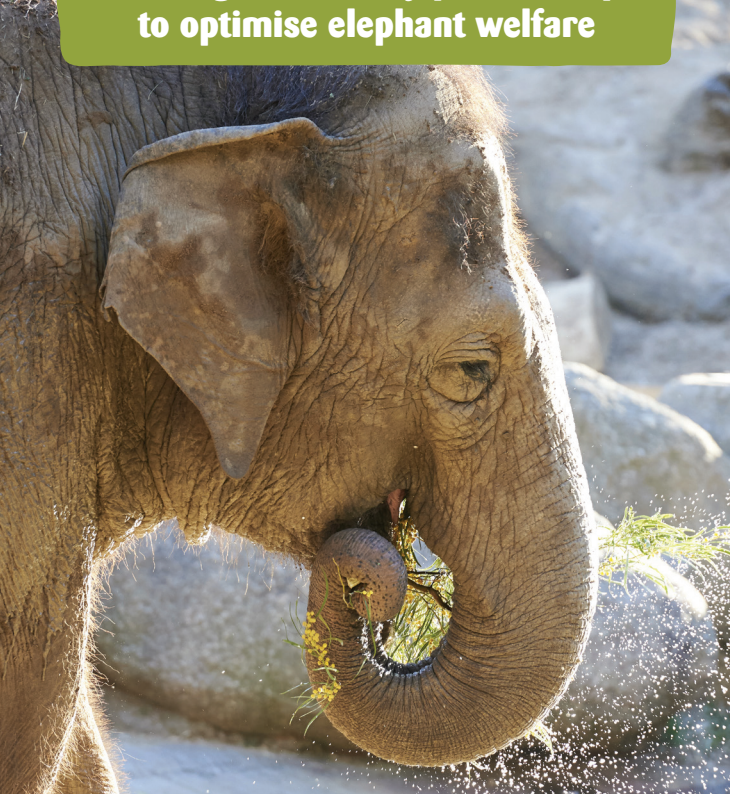


Message:

**Creating community partnerships
to optimise elephant welfare**



Contact

Trail of the Elephants

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**Melbourne Zoo
Elephant Browse
Program**

A photograph of a young elephant standing in a natural enclosure, eating green leafy vegetation. The elephant is the central focus of the image, with its trunk curled around the food. The background shows a dirt ground and some foliage.

Asian Elephants are under threat of extinction in the wild and are listed as Endangered.

Zoos Victoria is home to 10 elephants in our herd and by participating in our browse initiative, **you can help care for them!**

Zoos Victoria's browse initiative is designed to assist our feeding strategies and will be used to enhance and motivate our elephants to fully explore their habitat, encouraging health and fitness.

What is browse?

Browse is a general term for all growth of trees and shrubs including branches, bark, leaves and buds. It is used food for elephants and our elephants eat A LOT! Over 100kg a day.

Browse is important to elephants because:

1. The elephant's digestive tract has been adapted to eat large amounts of vegetation. Browse helps improve dental health by removing tartar from teeth and supports gastrointestinal health.
2. It enables the elephants to display many natural behaviours by providing prolonged feeding and social opportunities.

If your organisation can help support our browse initiative please contact us before you plan to harvest to arrange delivery. Alternatively, we may be able to come out and pick up freshly cut browse if organised in advance. Browse will only be used if freshly cut.

All browse and logs must be free from contaminants, manure, disease and pesticides. We also ask that browse has not been harvested from paddocks which run livestock, or from areas with close proximity to agriculture or livestock. In addition, browse can not be delivered or transported in livestock vehicles.



Meet the herd

Luk Chai, Num-oi, Dokkoon, Mali, Man Jai, Kulab, Mek Kapah, Aiyara, Roi-Yim and Kati

For more information

Contact: elephantbrowse@zoo.org.au

For a more detailed browse list of approved species suitable to feed our elephants and additional requirements and information please contact us by email. We are also happy to answer any questions you have regarding browse for our elephants. Please note we cannot give permission for media or social media promotion of any browse donations. Any publicity ideas must be discussed with the Zoos Victoria communications team, which can be contacted via media@zoo.org.au.

The focus of our staff is to ensure our elephants have a supply of browse to eat every day and we thank you for your support.

Common Browse Species	
Apple – no fruit	<i>Malus spp</i>
Ash – logs only	<i>Franxinus spp</i>
Wattle – most species of <i>Acacia</i>	<i>Acacia spp</i>
Evergreen Alder	<i>Alnus iorullensis</i>
Fig – no fruit	<i>Ficus spp</i>
Sugar cane	<i>Sacchorum officinarum</i>
Willow – most species of <i>Salix</i>	<i>Salix spp</i>
Plane Tree – logs only	<i>Platanus spp</i>
Poplar – most species of <i>Populus</i> except <i>Poplar alba</i>	<i>Populus spp</i>
Date Palm	<i>Phoenix spp</i>
Coprosma	<i>Coporsma repens</i>
Bamboo – all species of <i>Bambusa</i>	<i>Bambusa spp</i>
Chinese Elm	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>
Banana	<i>Musa spp</i>
Elephant Grass	<i>Pennisetum purpureum</i>
Elm	<i>Ulmus spp</i>
Tree Lucerne	<i>Chamaecytisus proliferus</i>
River SheOak	<i>Casuarina cunninahamiana</i>
Giant Reed	<i>Arundo donax</i>

Acceptable sizes for logs is 80cm diameter, 2.3 meters long. Root balls accepted.

For an extensive list of tree species, please email us elephantbrowse@zoo.org.au