

Design Standards for Urban Infrastructure

Plant Species for Urban Landscape Projects in Canberra

Botanical Name: *Betula pendula* (BTp)

Common Name: silver birch

Species description

- Deciduous
- Pyramidal to elliptical form with pendulous branchlets
- Smooth white to grey bark, often with dark horizontal striations
- Glossy green serrated leaves turning yellow in autumn
- Insignificant flowers
- Fruit are [catkins](#)

Height and width

12 to 15 metres tall by 6 to 8 metres wide

Species origin

Central Europe to Asia

Landscape use

- Available Soil Volume required 19m³
- Suitable for use in parks and large gardens, commercial shopping precincts and home gardens
- Useful as a specimen tree or in group plantings in close formation
- Requires a minimum clearance of 5 metres from buildings

Use considerations

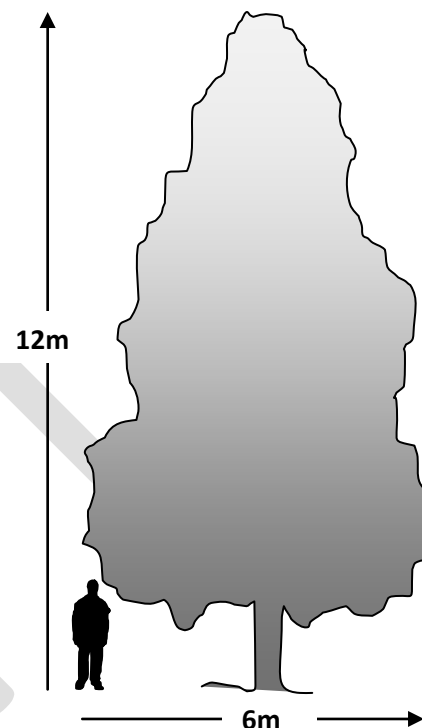
- Can perform well in Canberra where sufficient moisture is available
- Dry sites can lead to extensive crown terminal branchlet death and tends to burn leaves
- High frost tolerance, but low drought tolerance
- Needs richer, deeper soils with adequate soil moisture, however dislikes water logging
- [Medium longevity](#), but depends on available moisture
- Moderate growth rate
- Low flammability
- Requires full sun
- Leaves can be affected by a rust fungus, however not a significant problem in Canberra
- Requires careful pruning when mature, as does not readily reshoot

Examples in Canberra

Mitchell Street, Griffith; National Arboretum Canberra

Availability

Commercially available



ACT
Government

Territory and Municipal Services