

Design Standards for Urban Infrastructure

Plant Species for Urban Landscape Projects in Canberra

Botanical Name: *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Palo Alto' (LQp)

Common Name: Palo Alto sweet gum

Species description

- Deciduous
- Upright tree with a straight trunk and pyramidal shaped branches
- Corky, ridged bark
- Distinctive dark green maple-like leaves, turning a consistent purple-crimson and orange in autumn
- Inconspicuous yellow flowers
- Hardy spiky seed pods, which can cause problems on footpaths

Height and width

12 to 15 metres tall by 12 metres wide

Species origin

Eastern USA to Mexico, cultivar was introduced by the Saratoga Horticultural Foundation

Landscape use

- Available Soil Volume required 43m^3
- Can be used in streets, avenues and urban parks, especially for its spectacular autumn leaf colour
- Requires a minimum clearance of 6 metres from buildings

Use considerations

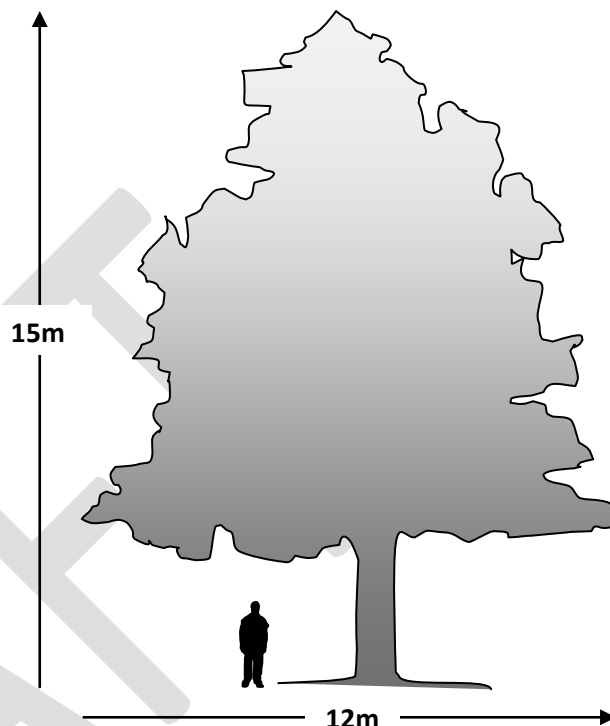
- Suitable for all areas of Canberra's climate
- Frost tolerance to minus 10 degrees Celsius and tolerant of hot, dry climates
- Tolerates a range of soils, including wet sites with good drainage and fertile acidic to neutral soils
- [Long lived](#)
- Moderate growth rate
- Very low flammability
- Grows best in full sun
- Vigorous root system
- Formative pruning may be required to create a single leader and for canopy lifting may be needed near paths and roads

Examples in Canberra

Hazlegrove and Redbank Streets, Harrison and Stump Jump Crescent and Overbury Street, Dunlop

Availability

Commercially available



ACT
Government

Territory and Municipal Services