



**ACT**  
Government

Transport Canberra  
and City Services

# Design Standards for Urban Infrastructure

## Plant Species for Urban Landscape Projects in Canberra

**Botanical Name:** *Arbutus x andrachnoides* (ARa)

**Common Name:** Hybrid strawberry tree

### Species Description

- Evergreen
- Rounded tree that is often multi trunked
- Attractive cinnamon-coloured bark that sheds in strips
- Dark green leaves and dense foliage
- Attractive white or pink petal-less flowers in spring
- Bright red/orange strawberry-like fruit

### Height and width

10 metres tall by 8 metres wide

### Species origin

Cross between *Arbutus unedo* (Irish Strawberry Tree) and *Arbutus andrachne* (Grecian Strawberry Tree)

### Landscape use

- Available Soil Volume required:  $\geq 15\text{m}^3$
- Particularly suitable for use in urban parks or commercial shopping centres as a shade tree
- Suitable for use in home gardens
- Should not be planted near nature reserves, creeks or watercourses

### Use considerations

- Ideal for the Canberra climate
- High frost tolerance to minus 10 degrees Celsius and very high drought tolerance
- Will grow on all Canberra soils, including limestone soils
- Long lived
- Slow growing
- Very low flammability
- Provides nesting space and fruit for food for wildlife
- Fruit drop can be a minor problem in pedestrian/paved areas
- Produces nectar and attracts bees, birds and other fauna

### Examples in Canberra

Cuppacumbalong Homestead, near Tharwa, planted in the early 1920s

### Availability

Not readily available, will require advanced ordering

