



# Design Standards for Urban Infrastructure

## Plant Species for Urban Landscape Projects in Canberra

**Botanical Name:** *Paulownia tomentosa* (PAt)

**New species**

**Common Name:** Empress tree

### Species Description

- Deciduous
- Vase shaped to rounded
- Rough grey-brown bark
- Very large heart-shaped leaves
- [Panicles](#) of showy purple tubular flowers in spring
- Fruit is a dry segmented egg-sized capsule

### Height and width

12 to 15 metres tall by 10 metres wide

### Species origin

China

### Landscape use

- Available Soil Volume required:  $\geq 45\text{m}^3$
- Can be used in parks, shopping centres and home gardens
- Only suitable for use as a street tree in older developed and more sheltered suburbs
- Not suitable for planting in natural areas
- Fruit drop may be a minor nuisance in pedestrian areas

### Use considerations

- Suitable for more sheltered areas
- High frost tolerance and moderate drought tolerance
- Can suffer leaf burn without irrigation in hot dry periods
- Tolerates water logging but prefers rich well drained soils
- [Medium longevity](#)
- Fast growing
- Highly heliotropic; requires full sun
- Low flammability
- Form and habit vary in response to competition and light
- Produces nectar which attracts bees

### Examples in Canberra

Hanna Neumann Building, Australian National University and Geerilong Gardens Reid

### Availability

Commercially available

