



Design Standards for Urban Infrastructure

Plant Species for Urban Landscape Projects in Canberra

Botanical Name: *Quillaja saponaria* (Qls)

Common Name: Chilean soap bark

Species Description

- Evergreen
- Small to medium sized upright tree
- Thick, dark coloured bark
- Thick [alternate](#) leathery leaves
- Large white star-shaped flowers in spring
- Dry mature five-lobed fruit

Height and width

10 metres tall by 6 metres wide

Species origin

Chile

Landscape use

- Available Soil Volume required: $\geq 15\text{m}^3$
- Suitable for use in urban parks and commercial shopping precincts as a feature tree in areas of higher maintenance
- Suitable for use in home gardens

Use considerations

- Occurs naturally in a cooler, moister climate than Canberra's
- Grows best in protected areas
- Moderate frost tolerance and low drought tolerance
- Suits most soils, but prefers moderately deep soils with some organic matter
- [Short](#) to [medium longevity](#)
- Slow growing
- Very low flammability
- Could require irrigation during establishment and in dry seasons
- Attracts insects

Examples in Canberra

Westbourne Woods, CIT Weston and the National Arboretum Canberra

Availability

Not readily available; may need to be ordered from specialist nurseries

