



**ACT**  
Government

Transport Canberra  
and City Services

# Design Standards for Urban Infrastructure

## Plant Species for Urban Landscape Projects in Canberra

**Botanical Name:** *Melia azedarach* 'Elite' (MEe)

**New species**

**Common Name:** Chinaberry, Cape lilac

### Species Description

- Deciduous
- Rounded topped tree with an broad canopy
- Dark grey-brown bark, becoming fissured with age
- Deep green glossy foliage turning yellow in autumn
- Reputed to have very low numbers of flowers or fruit, unlike the common seedling grown *Melia*

### Height and width

8 metres tall by 9 metres wide

### Species origin

Asia to central NSW; low/non fruiting variety of *Melia* discovered in a local Melbourne streetscape

### Landscape use

- Available Soil Volume required:  $\geq 30\text{m}^3$
- Suitable for use as a street tree, in parks and in home gardens
- Should not be planted near nature reserves, creeks or watercourses

### Use considerations

- High frost tolerance and drought tolerance once established
- Tolerates a wide range of soils from clays to sandy loams
- [Medium to long lived](#)
- Moderate to fast growth rate
- Low flammability
- Produces pollen and nectar; attracts bees
- Responds well to formative pruning
- This variety has a low weed potential

### Examples in Canberra

Not known in Canberra in public plantings

### Availability

Commercially available

