



ACT
Government

Transport Canberra
and City Services

Design Standards for Urban Infrastructure

Plant Species for Urban Landscape Projects in Canberra

Botanical Name: *Davidia involucrata* (DAi)

Common Name: Dove tree, Handkerchief tree

Species Description

- Deciduous
- Broad conical crown, rounding with age
- Bark becomes scaly and orange-brown
- [Alternate](#), [ovate](#) to heart-shaped leaves, bright green above and paler below with a serrate margin
- Autumn colour
- Small dense flowers enclosed by distinctive large white [bracts](#) in early spring
- Fruit is a very hard nut

Height and width

12 metres tall by 8 to 10 metres wide

Species origin

South-western China

Landscape use

- Available Soil Volume required: $\geq 45\text{m}^3$
- Suitable for use as a shade tree in urban parks
- A good specimen tree
- Suitable for home gardens

Use considerations

- Suited to more sheltered conditions
- High frost tolerance and low to moderate drought tolerance; requires water and rich soil particularly during establishment
- Prefers well-drained, rich soil and sheltered conditions
- Prefers full sun to part shade
- [Long lived](#)
- Slow to moderate growth rate
- Low flammability
- Produces nectar and pollen which attract bees

Examples in Canberra

National Arboretum Canberra; Australian National University

Availability

Limited availability, would most likely require forward ordering

