



Design Standards for Urban Infrastructure

Plant Species for Urban Landscape Projects in Canberra

Botanical Name: *Styphnolobium japonicum* syn. *Sophora japonica* (SOj)

Common Name: Pagoda tree

Species Description

- Deciduous
- Medium sized, upright, rounded to spreading tree
- Light grey-brown bark, furrowed on the trunk
- Bright to dark green [pinnately compound](#) foliage
- Yellow/cream fragrant flowers in pendulous [racemes](#) in summer
- Green seed pods, turning to yellow-brown, similar in appearance to a string of beads

Height and width

12 to 15 metres tall by 10 metres wide

Species origin

Eastern Asia

Landscape use

- Available Soil Volume required: $\geq 45\text{m}^3$
- Suitable for use as a street tree and a specimen tree in urban parks
- Should not be planted within 4 metres of hydraulic services

Use considerations

- Grows moderately well in Canberra's climate
- Moderate frost and drought tolerance once established
- Grows best in deeper, moist, well-drained soils
- Prefers full sun
- [Long lived](#)
- Moderate to fast growth rate
- Very low flammability
- Can have issues with canker
- Tolerant of pollution
- Formative pruning is required to develop a single trunk
- Fruit drop may be a nuisance in pedestrian areas
- Attracts insects

Examples in Canberra

National Arboretum Canberra; Wedge Crescent, Turner

Availability

Commercially available

