



# Design Standards for Urban Infrastructure

## Plant Species for Urban Landscape Projects in Canberra

**Botanical Name:** *Acer japonicum* (ACj)

**Common Name:** Downy Japanese maple, Full moon maple

### Species Description

- Deciduous
- Small rounded spreading tree, often with low branches
- Bark becomes rough and scaly with age
- Leaves are [palmately lobed](#) and serrated, with brilliant red autumn leaf colour
- Dark purplish red flowers in spring
- Attractive double-winged [samaras](#)

### Height and width

7 metres tall by 7 metres wide

### Species origin

Japan; introduced into Western gardens in 1864

### Landscape use

- Available Soil Volume required:  $\geq 15\text{m}^3$
- Suitable for regional shopping centres, home gardens and small urban parks to enhance autumn colour
- Should not be planted near nature reserves, creeks or watercourses

### Use considerations

- High frost tolerance to minus 10 degrees Celsius and moderate drought tolerance
- Suits most soils with reasonable drainage
- Prefers sheltered sites; may suffer leaf scorch in hot exposed locations
- [Medium longevity](#)
- Slow growth rate
- Low flammability
- Not affected by pests, except for a short period of aphid attack on new leaves
- Requires formative pruning for high clearance
- Provides minimal wildlife habitat for birds
- Produces nectar which attracts bees

### Examples in Canberra

Chance Street, Casey

### Availability

Commercially available

