



# Design Standards for Urban Infrastructure

## Plant Species for Urban Landscape Projects in Canberra

**Botanical Name:** *Fagus sylvatica* 'Purpurea' (Fsp)

**New species**

**Common Name:** Copper beech, Purple beech

### Species Description

- Deciduous
- Shapely spreading tree with rounded crown
- Bark is smooth and grey, becoming textured with age
- Attractive dark purple leaves
- Insignificant flowers in mid-spring
- Nuts are within a prickly husk

### Height and width

12 metres tall by 8 metres wide

### Species origin

Europe; the 'Purpurea' cultivar is listed as first being noted near Zurich in 1680

### Landscape use

- Available Soil Volume required:  $\geq 30\text{m}^3$
- A beautiful specimen tree in parks or large gardens due to its attractive leaves and bark
- Suitable for use as a street tree, in commercial precincts and in home gardens
- Should not be planted near nature reserves, creeks or watercourses

### Use considerations

- Generally a hardy tree once established
- High frost tolerance and moderate drought tolerance
- Will grow on a wide range of soils, including poorly drained saline, limestone and clay soils, but does not grow well on sandy sites
- [Long lived](#)
- Slow to moderate growth rate
- Low flammability
- Susceptible to oak leaf miner and aphids attack, but otherwise relatively free of pests and diseases
- Requires appropriate irrigation in establishment years

### Examples in Canberra

Not known in Canberra in public plantings

### Availability

Commercially available

