



ACT
Government

Transport Canberra
and City Services

Design Standards for Urban Infrastructure

Plant Species for Urban Landscape Projects in Canberra

Botanical Name: *Quercus engelmannii* (Qen)

New species

Common Name: Mesa oak

Species Description

- [Semi-evergreen](#) to evergreen
- Medium sized, broad spreading, round headed tree
- Grey-green bark
- Leaves are small, almost entire and dull green
- Narrow, drooping yellow-green male [catkins](#) and inconspicuous female flowers in spring
- Stout egg-shaped acorns

Height and width

15 metres tall by 14 metres wide

Species origin

Southern California, USA to Baja California, Mexico

Landscape use

- Available Soil Volume required: $\geq 70\text{m}^3$
- Appropriate for park or broad street plantings, or a specimen tree with appropriate space
- Worth considering for dry sites

Use considerations

- Suitable for Canberra's climate, growing naturally in a Mediterranean climate
- High frost and drought tolerance
- Has grown well in shaley to clay loam soils in Canberra
- [Long lived](#)
- Slow growing
- Low flammability
- May be affected by oak leaf miner
- Dense evergreen foliage could impede solar access
- Acorn drop may be a nuisance in pedestrian areas

Examples in Canberra

Caladenia Street, O'Connor; Westbourne Woods and the National Arboretum Canberra

Availability

May require forward ordering

