

Design Standards for Urban Infrastructure

Plant Species for Urban Landscape Projects in Canberra

Botanical Name: Acacia melanoxylon (Aml)

Common Name: Blackwood

Species Description

- Evergreen
- Medium sized, rounded elliptical tree with dense rounded crown
- Single, stout trunk with fissured hard bark
- Dark green phyllodes
- Pale cream flowers from August to October
- Seed pods are reddish and slightly twisted
- Best form is from wet sclerophyll communities

Height and width

8 to 15 metres tall by 5 to 8 metres wide

Species origin

Australia: Queensland to Tasmania including the ACT

Landscape use

- Available Soil Volume required: ≥30m³
- Can be used in park sites, particularly where sheltered from drying summer wind
- Suitable for use in large, sheltered home gardens and revegetation areas
- Not recommended as a street tree in Canberra
- Suitable for use in the ember zone and the inner asset protection zone

Use considerations

- High frost tolerance but requires irrigation in drought
- Grows best in deeper fertile soils with higher moisture levels and good drainage
- Grows well in full sun or light shade
- Medium longevity, but long-lived compared to other Acacia species
- Moderate to fast growing
- Low flammability
- Can be susceptible to stem borers, particularly if under drought stress
- Produces seeds and significant pollen which attract bees, butterflies, beetles and birds. Provides protective habitat for urban wildlife
- Requires a low level of formative pruning
- Listed as an ecologically beneficial species under the *Tree Protection Act* 2005

Examples in Canberra

Australian National Botanic Gardens

Availability

Commercially available

