



Design Standards for Urban Infrastructure

Plant Species for Urban Landscape Projects in Canberra

Botanical Name: *Parrotia persica* (PAp)

Common Name: Persian witch hazel

Species Description

- Deciduous
- A small tree which is initially upright, becoming domed in form as its branches spread sideways
- Often low-branched and multi-stemmed
- Striking winter bark which peels
- Oval alternate leaves
- Red/gold autumn colour
- Red petalless flowers appear in dense clusters along the branches in late winter and early spring
- Fruit consists of a double capsule containing two seeds

Height and width

6 metres tall by 4 metres wide

Species origin

The Caucasus, northern Iran and eastern China

Landscape use

- Available Soil Volume required: $\geq 15\text{m}^3$
- Useful as a specimen tree due to its varied autumn colours
- Suitable for use on protected sites in home gardens, parks and commercial areas

Use considerations

- Suitable for the ACT climate; could benefit from further trialling
- High frost tolerance to minus 10 degrees and moderate drought tolerance; will perform best with extra water during establishment
- Prefers moist, partly acidic, well-drained soil but will adapt to most soils
- Hardy but will only colour well on favourable sites with sufficient water
- Grows well in full sun or partial shade
- [Medium longevity](#)
- Slow growing
- Low flammability
- Largely free from pests and diseases
- Formative pruning is required to encourage good structure
- Subject to leaf burn from hot winds

Examples in Canberra

National Arboretum Canberra and one specimen at the north-eastern end of Telopea Park

Availability

Commercially available

