



Design Standards for Urban Infrastructure

Plant Species for Urban Landscape Projects in Canberra

Botanical Name: *Prunus cerasifera* 'Nigra' (Pcn)

Common Name: Black cherry plum

Species Description

- Deciduous
- Small tree with rounded to vase shaped form
- Dark-brown to purple-brown bark
- Distinctive dark purple foliage
- Attractive pink flowers before foliage, darkening to red as spring progresses
- Small dark red-purple fruit in January

Height and width

6 metres tall by 5 metres wide

Species origin

Balkans, Caucasus to western Asia

Landscape use

- Available Soil Volume required: $\geq 15\text{m}^3$
- Useful as an ornamental street tree and park tree
- Not suitable near schools, shopping centres and footpaths due to fruit drop
- Suitable for use in home gardens
- Should not be planted near nature reserves, creeks or watercourses

Use considerations

- Has performed very well in Canberra
- High frost and drought tolerance
- Suits most soils types in Canberra
- Flowers best in full sun
- [Medium longevity](#)
- Moderately fast growing
- Very low flammability
- Can have problems with pear and cherry slug
- Requires some formative pruning in early years to encourage a single trunk
- Produces good nectar which attracts bees; fruit attracts birds and possums
- Fruit drop may be a minor nuisance in pedestrian and paved areas

Examples in Canberra

Hoddle Gardens, Ainslie; Telopea Park and Gale Street, Downer

Availability

Commercially available

