



Design Standards for Urban Infrastructure

Plant Species for Urban Landscape Projects in Canberra

Botanical Name: *Quercus palustris* 'Free Fall' (Qpaf)

Common Name: Free Fall pin oak

Species Description

- Deciduous
- Large tree with conical shape until mature
- Grey-brown bark, developing thin ridges and furrows with age
- Deep green summer foliage and striking red-brown autumn foliage
- Leaves drops quickly in autumn, unlike the widely used *Quercus palustris*
- Male flowers borne on drooping yellow-green [catkins](#) and female flowers borne on short spikes in spring
- Small acorns with thin saucer-like caps

Height and width

18 metres tall by 15 metres wide

Species origin

North-eastern to mid-west USA

Landscape use

- Available Soil Volume required: $\geq 70\text{m}^3$
- Can be used in large scale landscapes such as parks, wide street verges and schools/commercial areas
- Provides dense shade in summer
- A useful large tree near playgrounds

Use considerations

- Very suitable for Canberra's climate
- High frost and drought tolerance
- Grows well in a wide range of soil types and tolerates all drainage conditions
- [Long lived](#)
- Establishes well and is fast growing
- Low flammability
- Requires formative pruning when young and lower branch removal as tree matures
- Acorn drop may be a nuisance in pedestrian areas
- Produces pollen

Examples in Canberra

Entrance to Lindsay Pryor Arboretum and the National Arboretum Canberra

Availability

Commercially available

