



**ACT**  
Government

Transport Canberra  
and City Services

# Design Standards for Urban Infrastructure

## Plant Species for Urban Landscape Projects in Canberra

**Botanical Name:** *Laurus nobilis* (LRn)

**Common Name:** Bay laurel, Bay tree

### Species Description

- Evergreen
- Tall rounded shrub or small tree
- Shiny grey bark
- Dark green aromatic foliage
- Small insignificant white flowers in spring
- Small shiny black berries

### Height and width

6 metres tall by 5 metres wide

### Species origin

Mediterranean region

### Landscape use

- Available Soil Volume required:  $\geq 15\text{m}^3$
- Can be used as a street tree
- Useful for urban parks and landscaping around suburban shopping centres
- Suitable for use in home gardens
- Ideal for use as a wind break
- Should not be planted near nature reserves, creeks or watercourses

### Use considerations

- Has performed well in ACT gardens since Canberra's settlement
- High frost and drought tolerance
- Suits almost all soils in the ACT
- [Medium longevity](#)
- Slow growing
- Highly flammability
- Produces nectar and pollen; attracts bees
- Requires formative pruning to create a single trunked tree form
- Fruit drop may be a minor nuisance in pedestrian/paved areas

### Examples in Canberra

ANU, where a large shrub is grown at the rear of University House, and in the grounds of Duntroon House

### Availability

Commercially available

