

Design Standards for Urban Infrastructure

Plant Species for Urban Landscape Projects in Canberra

Botanical Name: *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Palo Alto' (LQp)

Common Name: Palo Alto sweet gum

Species Description

- Deciduous
- Upright tree with a straight trunk and pyramidal shaped branches
- Corky, ridged bark
- Distinctive dark green maple-like leaves, turning a consistent purple-crimson and orange in autumn
- Inconspicuous yellow flowers in spring
- Hardy spiky seed pods

Height and width

12 to 15 metres tall by 12 metres wide

Species origin

Eastern USA to Mexico, cultivar was introduced by the Saratoga Horticultural Foundation

Landscape use

- Available Soil Volume required: $\geq 45\text{m}^3$
- Can be used in streets, avenues and urban parks, especially for its spectacular autumn leaf colour

Use considerations

- Suitable for all areas of Canberra's climate
- Frost tolerance to minus 10 degrees Celsius and tolerant of hot, dry climates
- Tolerates a range of soils, including wet sites with good drainage and fertile acidic to neutral soils
- Grows best in full sun
- [Long lived](#) with a moderate growth rate
- Very low flammability
- Formative pruning may be required to create a single leader and for canopy lifting may be needed near paths and roads
- Fruit drop may be a nuisance in pedestrian areas
- Vigorous root system
- Produces nectar which attracts bees

Examples in Canberra

Hazlegrove and Redbank Streets, Harrison and Stump Jump Crescent and Overbury Street, Dunlop

Availability

Commercially available

