



**ACT**  
Government

Transport Canberra  
and City Services

# Design Standards for Urban Infrastructure

## Plant Species for Urban Landscape Projects in Canberra

**Botanical Name:** *Betula pendula* 'Laciniata' (BTI)

**Common Name:** Cut-leaf silver birch

### Species Description

- Deciduous
- Pyramidal to elliptical form with pendulous branches
- Smooth white to grey bark, often with dark horizontal striations
- Leaves are oval and attractively incised with narrow lobes, turning yellow in autumn
- Insignificant flowers in spring
- Fruit are [catkins](#)

### Height and width

12 to 15 metres tall by 6 to 8 metres wide

### Species origin

Central Europe to Asia

### Landscape use

- Available Soil Volume required:  $\geq 30\text{m}^3$
- Suitable for use in parks and large gardens, commercial shopping precincts and home gardens
- Useful as a specimen tree or in group plantings in close formation
- Should not be planted near nature reserves, creeks or watercourses

### Use considerations

- Can perform well in Canberra where sufficient moisture is available
- Dry sites can lead to extensive crown terminal branchlet death and burnt leaves
- High frost tolerance, but low drought tolerance
- Needs richer, deeper soils with adequate soil moisture but dislikes waterlogging
- Requires full sun
- [Medium longevity](#) but depends on available moisture
- Moderate growth rate
- Low flammability
- Leaves can be affected by a rust fungus, however this is not a significant problem in Canberra
- Requires careful pruning when mature, as does not readily reshoot
- Vigorous root growth
- Produces pollen and is wind pollinated

### Examples in Canberra

Not known in Canberra in public plantings

### Availability

Commercially available

