



ACT
Government

Transport Canberra
and City Services

Design Standards for Urban Infrastructure

Plant Species for Urban Landscape Projects in Canberra

Botanical Name: *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Festeri' (LQf)

Common Name: Festeri sweet gum

Species Description

- Deciduous
- Pyramidal shaped tree
- Bark is less 'corky' than the straight species
- Maple-like leaves with variable autumn foliage colours including burgundy-red, yellow and orange, holding foliage well into winter
- Flowers in spring followed by spiky 'gumball' fruit capsules, which can be a problem in high use areas

Height and width

20 metres tall by 12 metres wide

Species origin

Eastern North America, Central Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras, with the cultivar reputedly introduced by Hazelwood Nurseries in Sydney

Landscape use

- Available Soil Volume required: $\geq 45\text{m}^3$
- Suitable for use as a street tree and in avenues, and in urban parks for shade

Use considerations

- Suitable to the Canberra climate, and can withstand wind and pollution
- High frost tolerance to minus 10 degrees Celsius and moderate drought tolerance once established
- Hardy in a range of Canberra soils, however performs better on deep moist soils and not suitable for highly alkaline soils
- [Long lived](#)
- Moderate growth rate and low flammability
- Relatively pest free, although some armoured scale may be seen in Canberra
- Formative pruning may be required to create one leader and canopy lifting may be needed near paths and roads
- Shallow, vigorous root system
- Produces nectar and pollen which attract bees

Examples in Canberra

New plantings in Ballantyne Crescent, Kessing Street and Ruth Bedford Street, Franklin

Availability

Commercially available, but forward ordering may be required

