

Small Trees for Canberra Gardens

There are many beautiful trees that will give shade and structure to a garden without taking up large spaces. Here are some suggestions.

Evergreen Trees

- ***Acacia floribunda*** – White Sallow Wattle - bushy, fast growing, long-lived Wattle to 5m. Yellow flowers in Spring. Remove lower branches to create shade tree. Tolerant of clay soils.
- ***Baeckea virgata*** – Twiggy Heath Myrtle - stunning, weeping small tree to 3m. White flowers in profusion in Summer. Remove lower branches for a classic 'tree' shape, and trim top of plant to keep bushy.
- ***Banksia marginata*** – Silver Banksia - our local Banksia. Grows to 5m, in sun or part shade. Yellow flowers in summer. Great bird attracter.
- ***Callistemon 'Endeavour'*** - A beautiful tree to 3-4m, with bright red flowers Summer. One of the most drought-hardy bottlebrushes for Canberra. Trim to shape after flowering.
- ***Callistemon 'Kings Park Special'*** - Small tree to 4m. Bright red brushes in Summer. Remove old blooms after flowering to keep plant bushy and neat. Will tolerate moist soils. The fastest growing Bottlebrush for this region.
- ***Eucalyptus gregsoniana*** – Wolgan Snow Gum - a dwarf Snow Gum from the Braidwood area. Grows to 4-5m, with a smooth white trunk and red stems. A very nice tree for your yard!
- ***Eucalyptus leucoxydon Rosea*** – (Red flowering White Ironbark) - A stunning, red/crimson flowering Gum, growing to 7m. Flowers in autumn, and often again in spring. Very bird-attracting. 'Eucy Dwarf' - a dwarf form of this tree, growing to 4-5m.
- ***Eucalyptus luehmanniana*** – **Yellow-top Mallee Ash** - A beautiful small tree to 6m, with a smooth, silver trunk and weeping clusters of large, colourful leaves. A great tree for rocky or well-drained areas.
- ***Eucalyptus moorei*** – **Little Sally** -A lovely delicate tree to 3m with fine, weeping foliage and cream blossoms. Often multi-trunked.
- ***Fraxinus griffithii*** – **Evergreen Ash** - Exotic small tree to 5m. Grows quickly in protected gardens, but slowly in exposed areas. Requires feeding regularly and extra water in summer.
- ***Hakea salicifolia*** – **Willow-leaf Hakea** - A dense tree to 4m with lime green leaves and cream flowers spring. Tolerant of heavy clay soils.



Deciduous Trees

- ***Acer palmatum*** – Japanese Maple - a beautiful, ferny tree. Seed-grown plants can reach a height of 5m, but grafted varieties may grow to around 3m. Will not grow in hot, windy or exposed areas. Bright reds and yellows in autumn.
- ***Malus ioensis* ‘Plena’** – Betchels Crab Apple - our favourite small tree! Grows to 4m × 3m. Large pink/white blossoms in spring, and flushes of silvery green new growth. Yellow/orange autumn foliage. Does not produce fruit.
- ***Malus ioensis* ‘Rubra’** - Lovely tree to 4-5m, with dark pink blossoms in spring. Dark coloured trunk. Orange/copper autumn foliage. Produces small amounts of fruit.
- ***Prunus species*** - Ornamental Cherries, Plums, Apricots, and Peaches. Tough trees to 6m. Many flower and foliage colours. Will tolerate heavy or wet soils.
- ***Pyrus species*** – Ornamental Pears - stunning, leafy trees 6-8m. Bright red autumn colour and white clusters of blossoms spring. Fast growing and easy to grow.

In addition to this, most large shrubs with a good strong main leading trunk can be clean-trunked to form a lovely small tree. Try it on your old large Bottlebrushes or Hakeas. You will be pleasantly surprised!

For more suggestions, see our pamphlet “Deciduous Shade Trees”

