



ACT
Government

Transport Canberra
and City Services

Design Standards for Urban Infrastructure

Plant Species for Urban Landscape Projects in Canberra

Botanical Name: *Quercus phellos* (Qph)

Common Name: Willow oak

Species Description

- Deciduous
- Pyramidal shape when young, developing into a tall broad-headed tree
- Reddish-brown bark when young, becoming grey with age
- Distinctive willow like leaves with entire margins, light green in spring turning yellow to orange in autumn
- Olive-green male [catkins](#) and inconspicuous brown-green female flowers in spring
- Small acorns held in shallow saucer-like cups

Height and width

12 metres tall by 9 metres wide

Species origin

Atlantic states of the USA to northern Florida, and westwards to the Mississippi River

Landscape use

- Available Soil Volume required: $\geq 70\text{m}^3$
- Can be used as a street tree on suitably wide verges
- Especially useful as a shade tree in urban parks

Use considerations

- High frost tolerance to minus 10 degrees Celsius and high drought tolerance
- Will grow in most local soils
- Grows best in full sun
- [Long lived](#)
- Fast growing
- Very low flammability
- Acorn drop may be a nuisance in pedestrian areas

Examples in Canberra

Linnaeus Way, ANU

Availability

Commercially available

