



**ACT**  
Government

Transport Canberra  
and City Services

# Design Standards for Urban Infrastructure

## Plant Species for Urban Landscape Projects in Canberra

**Botanical Name:** *Arbutus menziesii* (ARm)

**New species**

**Common Name:** Pacific madrone

### Species Description

- Evergreen
- Rounded to elliptical form, but can be multi-trunked with crooked growth in its natural form
- Smooth red-brown peeling bark which is green when freshly exposed
- Thick green glossy and leathery leaves
- White urn-shaped flowers born in upright clusters in spring
- Red to orange rough strawberry-like fruit

### Height and width

8 metres tall by 6 metres wide

### Species origin

Pacific coast of North America

### Landscape use

- Available Soil Volume required:  $\geq 15\text{m}^3$
- Can be used as a feature tree in parks and commercial shopping centres
- Suitable for use in home gardens
- Should not be planted near nature reserves, creeks or watercourses

### Use considerations

- Moderate frost tolerance and high drought tolerance once established
- May grow well on elevated areas to give some frost protection in early years
- Grows best on well drained soils, from silty to clay loams
- Shade intolerant
- [Long lived](#)
- Moderate growth rate
- Low flammability
- Nectar and fruit are be attractive to bees, birds and other fauna, similar to *Arbutus unedo*
- Fruit drop can be a minor problem in pedestrian/paved areas

### Examples in Canberra

Not known in Canberra in public plantings

### Availability

Available from specialist tree nurseries

