



ACT
Government

Transport Canberra
and City Services

Design Standards for Urban Infrastructure

Plant Species for Urban Landscape Projects in Canberra

Botanical Name: *Arbutus unedo* (ARu)

Common Name: Strawberry tree, Irish strawberry tree

Species Description

- Evergreen
- Small tree with rounded to spreading form, often with low branches
- Attractive red-brown peeling bark which is white when freshly exposed
- Attractive dark green glossy, serrated foliage
- White/ivory [ericaceous](#) flowers in spring
- Green to yellow and red fruit from summer to spring

Height and width

5 metres tall by 4 metres wide

Species origin

Originates from the Mediterranean region to south west Ireland

Landscape use

- Available Soil Volume required: $\geq 15\text{m}^3$
- Suitable for use in parks, shopping centres and home gardens
- Useful for low windbreaks, and can be hedged

Use considerations

- High frost and drought tolerance
- Generally suitable for most Canberra soil types, although prefers a well-drained, humus enriched soil
- Can grow in sun or shade
- [Medium longevity](#)
- Slow growing
- Low flammability
- Occasionally attacked by black scale
- Requires pruning to reveal trunks if the bark is to be used as a feature
- Produces nectar which attracts bees; birds and possums are known to eat the ripe fruit
- Fruit drop can be a minor problem in pedestrian/paved areas

Examples in Canberra

Dirrawan Gardens, Reid

Availability

Commercially available

