



**ACT**  
Government

Transport Canberra  
and City Services

# Design Standards for Urban Infrastructure

## Plant Species for Urban Landscape Projects in Canberra

**Botanical Name:** *Malus ioensis* 'Plena' (MAi)

**Common Name:** Betchel's crab apple

### Species Description

- Deciduous
- Small to medium tree with a rounded crown
- Greyish brown bark
- Green leaves with a coarsely serrate margin, turning dark red and orange in autumn
- Profusion of delicate double pink flowers after leaves in mid to late October
- A few green crab apples

### Height and width

6 metres tall by 5 metres wide

### Species origin

Central USA

### Landscape use

- Available Soil Volume required:  $\geq 15\text{m}^3$
- Excellent for use in shopping centre precincts and parks
- Can be used in cul-de-sacs where low branches will not cause problems for trucks
- Suitable for use in home gardens
- Should not be planted near nature reserves, creeks or watercourses, or within 2m of hydraulic services

### Use considerations

- High frost tolerance to minus 10 degrees Celsius and high drought tolerance
- Requires good drainage; will not tolerate waterlogged soils
- Grows well in full sun to part shade
- [Medium longevity](#)
- Slow growing
- Very low flammability
- Produces significant nectar; attracts bees and birds
- Formative pruning can be required to create a single trunked form for high clearance
- Fruit drop may be a minor nuisance in pedestrian or paved areas

### Examples in Canberra

Weston Park, ANU adjacent to the Forestry Department  
and Nugal Place, Isabella Plains

### Availability

Commercially available

