



## Tree stock for landscape use



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The following are represented on Committee EV-018:

- Arboriculture Australia
  - Australian Council of National Trusts
  - Australian Institute of Horticulture
  - Australian Institute of Landscape Architects
  - Australian Local Government Association
  - Australian Pipeline Industry Association
  - Australian Property Institute
  - Institute of Australian Consulting Arboriculturists
  - Local Government Tree Resources Association
  - Nursery and Garden Industry Australia
  - Parks and Leisure Australia
  - TAFE NSW
  - University of Melbourne
  - Water Services Association of Australia
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Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standard Australia Committee EV-018, Arboriculture.

The objective of this Standard is to provide those who grow, specify or purchase tree stock for landscape use with criteria enabling quality tree stock to be identified for landscape use, regardless of the production method used to grow them.

Referenced material and sourced information in this Standard has been collated from industry experts and based on the publication *Specifying Trees—A guide to assessment of tree quality* (2003), first published as *Purchasing landscape trees* (1996), reproduced with permission of Construction Information Systems Limited trading as NATSPEC and Ross Clark. Author: Ross Clark. Published by: Construction Information Systems Limited trading as NATSPEC.

The terms ‘normative’ and ‘informative’ have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A ‘normative’ appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an ‘informative’ appendix is for information and guidance only.

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## FOREWORD

This Standard is aimed at simplifying the tree stock specification process and describes the above- and below-ground characteristics that are necessary in determining quality tree stock for landscape use.

The recognition and selection of quality tree stock is an important first step in a series of events, which, combined, enable trees to fulfil their long-term landscape potential. In addition to the recognition and selection of quality tree stock, good landscape planning and design, correct planting and establishment techniques and ongoing maintenance are also required for trees to be a successful component of the landscape. This Standard covers only the tree stock quality aspect of this entire process.

A number of factors are important in determining the quality of a tree. At the time of planting, a tree should be free of faults that would be likely to cause the tree to fail at some point in the future, or that would require a greater input of resources to establish. It should be healthy, structurally sound, have well-developed roots, have a uniform habit and good balance between the canopy and the rootball.

Growing quality tree stock in production nurseries takes great skill and care. The production process is an important part and the starting point of producing quality trees. The care and professional techniques applied to tree stock during their growth is very important, as is the nursery situation where the tree stock is grown.

Across Australia there are a large number of different production methods utilized by production nurseries. While these techniques can vary greatly, characteristics outlined in this Standard remain valid across all production methods.

It should be recognized that the term 'tree' covers a range of highly variable living genera and species, which are influenced by their growing environment, including time of year and season. This Standard provides a method for determining tree stock quality that is flexible in application without compromising quality.

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**Australian Standard**

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SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

### 1.1 SCOPE

This Standard specifies the criteria for the assessment of above- and below-ground characteristics of tree stock that are to be supplied for landscape use. It covers container grown, containerized, bare rooted and ex-ground tree stock, and can be applied to all stages of growth.

The specifications and criteria in this Standard apply to all methods of production systems and styles of containers.

NOTE: Tree stock are not manufactured articles that can be produced to an exact specification. Variability between tree stock is expected, as trees are living organisms and there is nothing exact in their nature.

This Standard does not apply to palms, or tree stock that is specifically produced for topiary, espalier, bonsai, pollarding or coppicing. This Standard does not apply to tree stock that has been transplanted from a landscape situation (not a production nursery) to places other than a production nursery.

### 1.2 APPLICATION

This Standard is intended for use by suppliers and purchasers of tree stock for landscape use and for those who specify tree stock for landscape use.

This Standard is also suitable for use under a third-party auditable nursery production best management practice or quality assurance (QA) accreditation program. Certification is not a requirement of the Standard, and the Standard may equally well be applied on a self-assessment basis within a user organization.

### 1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

1199 Sampling procedures for inspection by attributes

1199.0 Part 0: Introduction to the ISO 2859 attribute sampling system

1199.1 Part 1: Sampling schemes indexed by acceptance quality limit (AQL) for lot-by-lot inspection

4373 Pruning of amenity trees

National Plant Labelling Guidelines v2.0, NGIA, 2013

### 1.4 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Standard, the definitions below apply.

#### 1.4.1 Apical bud

Terminal bud located at the tip of the stem and branches.