



Tree stock for landscape use



AS 2303:2018

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- Australian Institute of Horticulture
- Australian Institute of Landscape Architects
- Australian Local Government Association
- Australian Pipelines and Gas Association
- Institute of Australian Consulting Arboriculturists
- Local Government Tree Resources Association
- Nursery & Garden Industry Australia
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Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Standard Australia Committee EV-018, Arboriculture to supersede AS 2303:2015 *Tree stock for landscape use*.

The objective of this Standard is to provide criteria for those who grow, specify or purchase tree stock for landscape use. The use of such criteria enables quality tree stock to be identified, 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 [1].

The terms “normative” and “informative” have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendices 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 Australian Standard is aimed at simplifying the tree stock specification process and describes the above-ground 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 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, many different production methods are utilized by production nurseries. While these techniques can vary greatly, the 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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