



Nursery Industry Accreditation Scheme Australia

NIASA: **LANDSCAPE TREE** NURSERY STOCK SPECIFICATION

Best Management Practice Guidelines
for Landscape Tree Stock Production
as an Appendix to the

NIASA BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE GUIDELINES



Setting the
Standards

Landscape Tree
Stock Specification



Setting the
Standards



Setting the
Standards



Setting the
Standards

9th Edition 2023



CONTENTS

1 Introduction.....	3
2 Propagation.....	4
3 Importation.....	4
4 Transplanting/staging (re-potting).....	5
4.1 Root direction.....	6
4.2 Root ball occupancy (staging).....	7
4.3 Root ball diameter and depth (staging).....	7
4.4 Trunk position (staging).....	7
4.5 Height of root crown (staging).....	7
5 Growing on and hardening off.....	8
5.1 Formative pruning.....	8
6 Grafted tree stock.....	10
7 Despatch.....	10
7.1 Height and calliper.....	11
7.2 Self-supporting.....	12
7.3 Tree stock balance.....	12
7.4 Tree health.....	14
7.5 True to type.....	15
8 Record keeping.....	15
SCHEDULE 1: SAMPLING FOR INSPECTIONS.....	16
SCHEDULE 2: EXAMPLE RECORD SHEETS.....	17
SCHEDULE 3: QUALITY CONTROL PROCEDURE – EXAMPLE OF PROCEDURE.....	24
LANDSCAPE TREE STOCK SPECIFICATION CHECKLIST.....	27



LANDSCAPE TREE STOCK SPECIFICATION

1 Introduction

Users of nursery tree stock for landscapes are increasingly specifying high-quality stock that meets critical benchmarks, including plant health and tree structure. Starting with high-quality nursery tree stock provides the best opportunity for trees to become successfully established in the environment, helping negate issues around poor tree performance as they mature. This is important as trees represent a significant long-term investment into a landscape and may require support in the environment post-planting. For production nurseries, growing high-quality nursery tree stock helps to ensure that products can be competitive in the marketplace and are fit for purpose.

It is highly recommended that production nurseries supplying nursery tree stock into the landscape market maintain a copy of AS2303 *Tree Stock for Landscape Use* and are familiar with its requirements. It is worth noting that AS2303 is intended for informing the landscape market and not the retail market; however, the quality principles noted are equally applicable and should in principle be applied to nursery tree stock destined for retail channels.



Images (left to right) - 1. *Eucalyptus loxophleba*, 2. *Lagerstroemia* sp. and 3. *Jacaranda mimosifolia*, a diverse range of quality tree stock from Western Australia

NIASA accreditation is a pre-requisite for production nurseries to be eligible for certification under the **NIASA Landscape Tree Stock Specification**. However, this guide can be utilised by any production nursery producing nursery tree stock. The following sections of this NIASA Appendix 14 detail the broad quality requirements a NIASA production nursery should meet for the supply of nursery tree stock.

Growers of good quality nursery tree stock recognise the importance of each step in the production process which influences and impacts physiological structure, plant health and establishment. This specification outlines the relevant criteria for nursery tree stock production. To apply the elements of this specification, production nurseries should have internal processes and training in place that allows implementation and the demonstration of industry best practice.