



Assessing Tree Planting Stocks For Quality Standards In Different Climatic Regions of Australia

The importance of healthy trees in urban landscapes is widely recognised as an important factor in the wellbeing of our populations and improving the liveability of our towns and cities.

The nursery industry is championing significant increases in urban greenspace within the next five under the 2020 Vision project, calling for 20% more greenspace in urban centres by the year 2020.

The industry is committed to providing high-quality landscape trees and the recent adoption of the standard AS2303:2015 Tree Stock For Landscape Use is aimed at ensuring that trees conform to known standards that recognise the specific physiology, structural attributes and performance under different climatic regimes in order to assure a long and productive life in landscape plantings.

Presently, the standard contains enables assessment of performance metrics of landscape trees but there is a considerable gap in available knowledge on the performance of trees that includes climatic, species and container size.

This research will provide the missing information through multivariate testing of these factors to consider their effects in an integrated way.

For all enquiries about this project, please contact:

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Conducting The Research

1. Acquire baseline information on root to shoot balance of tree planting stock and performance metrics

Our researchers will consult the international peer-reviewed scientific and trade literature to compile a database on root to shoot balance metrics and industry best practices.

This literature review aims to provide quantitative data that will be analysed to assess the metrics of tree stocks, including container volume, rootball diameter, stem caliper, stem taper, height and crown volume.

2. Quantify root to shoot balance in tree stock for contrasting regions of Australia

In addition to the literature review, this research also includes field testing at nursery grower locations across Australia to evaluate varying climate conditions and species.

The fieldwork will:

- determine regional and species differences in appropriate root to shoot balance of tree stock
- develop metrics according to Australian Standard AS2303:2015 to produce lookup tables for rapid, cost-effective quantification and categorization of root to shoot balances.

Information and Updates:

- <http://bit.ly/1VTrmSE>