

TESTING PROCESS FOR THE AS 2303:2018 STANDARD

Before starting

- Place tree stock on a firm surface
- Do not remove the container
- Remove any stakes or support system if present

1 Above ground testing

Includes assessment of tree height, calliper, crown density, cover and form as well as stem dimensions and trunk position. Moreover, observations of the health of the tree stock, absence of injuries, active pests and diseases, adequate formative pruning and compatible graft unions must also be assessed.

2 Balance and rootball assessment

- Requires calculation of the **size index (si)** = stem height (m) x calliper (mm) and checking that this value falls within the 25th to 75th percentile for a given container size.
- Assess the rootball diameter, depth, height of root crown and absence of suckering rootstock and active pests or diseases.

3 Below-ground testing

Involves checking that the rootball is fully occupied, roots growing in correct direction and free of girdled, kinked and circling roots.

Containerized and ex-ground tree stock?

Bare-rooted tree stock?

4 Bare-rooted tree stock testing

Includes measurements of rootball diameter and making sure that the roots are growing in the correct direction and free of j-roots, woody circling roots, kinked roots or girdled roots.



WHAT'S NEW?

Thanks to the **Tree Stock Standard project**, the shoot to root balance assessment was revised and new criteria were adopted to better reflect the variability of Australian tree stock across climate regions and the species available in nurseries. The research has provided a new and wider range of preferred sizes (size index values, see Table) for a given container volume, now included in the revised **AS 2303:2018**.

Nominal container volume (L)	5th percentile	Preferred range			95th percentile
		25th percentile	50th percentile	75th percentile	
18	10	17	25	36	57
20	11	19	27	39	62
25	14	23	33	47	73
27	15	25	35	50	77
30	16	27	38	54	84
35	18	31	44	61	94
40	20	35	49	68	104
45	23	38	54	75	114
50	25	42	59	82	124
52	26	44	61	84	127
65	31	53	74	100	151
75	35	60	84	113	168
90	42	71	98	130	193
100	46	77	107	142	209
150	65	111	151	196	284
200	84	142	193	247	354
250	102	173	233	295	419
300	119	203	272	341	481
350	136	233	310	385	541
400	153	262	347	429	598
500	186	318	420	512	709
600	218	373	490	593	814
700	250	428	559	670	915
750	265	454	592	708	964
800	281	481	626	746	1012
1000	341	585	756	891	1199
1200	400	686	883	1031	1377
1500	487	835	1067	1232	1631
1800	571	980	1246	1425	1872
2000	626	1075	1363	1550	2028
2500	761	1308	1647	1852	2402
3000	892	1535	1923	2142	2758

Visit our TreeStocker App (treestocker.westernsydney.edu.au) to check if the size index of your stock falls within the specified range.



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