

THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT WELCOMES YOU

This brochure is a *self-guided tour* visiting trees of special interest on the Storrs campus of the University of Connecticut. Please allow approximately one (1) hour for entire tour. Follow the purple ovals on the map (see reverse side) and refer to the tree descriptions as numbered. You may begin at any point along the tour route.

The *University of Connecticut Campus Arboretum* serves as both an aesthetic and scholarly resource for the University and campus visitors. It functions as a living laboratory and integral part of the curriculum of the University of Connecticut. Furthermore, the outstanding outdoor environment provided by the Campus Arboretum is an essential part of what makes UConn a great place to study, work, and visit.



The Arboretum Committee strives to enhance the tree, shrub, and vine plantings on campus by recommending new plants to add to the collection and by providing input on how to best preserve and maintain existing specimens.

SPECIAL TREES - AN INTERESTING WALK (see map)

1. *Platanus x acerifolia* (E side, Tasker Admissions Bldg.) [H1] This tree is probably more beautiful in winter than in summer, because once the leaves fall off, there is a clearer view of the marvelous multi-colored cream, tan and olive bark. The **London Planetree** is actually a hybrid species resulting from a cross between the Oriental Planetree and our native American Planetree (Sycamore). It has been used extensively in cities because of its tolerance of pollution and urban conditions.

2. *Aesculus flava* (W side, Student Union, right of main entrance) [G2] Of the large North American buckeye trees, the **Yellow Buckeye** is considered to be the best for landscaping. In May, it bears half foot long panicles of yellow flowers that produce brown, nutlike "buckeyes" at the end of the summer. In the fall, the palmate, compound leaves turn a pleasing pumpkin orange.

3. *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* (SE corner, Castleman Bldg.) [G3] **Katsuras** are native to Japan and China where they can reach over 100' tall. It is a fast growing tree that is sensitive to drought and likes a deep, moist soil. The mint green summer leaves turn yellow, orange and red in the fall. You can often catch the scent of burnt brown sugar or cotton candy released by the leaves in the autumn.

4. *Sciadopitys verticillata* (N, Hall Bldg.) [G3] The University of Connecticut campus has many fine specimens of **Umbrella Pine**, but this is the largest and was planted by the class of 1935. This evergreen is native to Japan, and sports long, prehistoric looking (in fact, known as a fossil in the USA before it was reintroduced), stout needles held in whorls at the end of the stems. It is not your typical looking conifer!

5. *Sophora japonica* (*Styphnolobium japonicum*) (SW, Wilbur Cross Bldg.) [G4] **Japanese Pagodatree** or **Scholar Tree** is an Asian species that has been promoted as a good medium-sized tree for use in urban and difficult locations. In Connecticut, this tree blooms in August, producing large, pendulous clusters of creamy white, pea-like flowers. Flowers produce interesting green pods up to a foot long with distinct constrictions between the seeds, making the fruits look like dangling strings of beads.

6. *Pseudocarya sinensis* (S side, Wilbur Cross Bldg.) [G4] **Chinese Quince** is a small tree in the rose family that is closely related to the European Quince (*Cydonia*). It sports lustrous dark green leaves in the summer and yellow, orange and red leaves in the fall. The bark is quite beautiful, exfoliating to reveal a multi-colored mosaic. Multiple trunks typically become fluted, enhancing the bark effect. Soft pink spring flowers can be followed by egg-shaped quince fruits. This particular specimen was transplanted in the late 1990s, from the west side of the Benton Museum to its current location. It is the largest individual of this species in Connecticut.

7. *Quercus imbricaria* (S, Wilbur Cross Bldg.) [F4] When does an oak not look like an oak? When it is a **Shingle Oak!** This oak is distinguished from most other oaks by its leaves, which are shaped like laurel leaves and lack the typical oak lobes. Nonetheless, it still has acorns. It grows wild in the lower Ohio valley and middle of the Mississippi valley.

8. *Ulmus parvifolia* (NE, Wilbur Cross Bldg.) [G4] The **Lacebark Elm** is a medium-sized tree and is arguably the best elm for landscape use in Connecticut. It performs well in difficult urban settings, is resistant to insects that attack elms and is also resistant to the Dutch elm disease which has been so problematic for the American Elm. The trunk of Lacebark Elm has a handsome, flaking bark of mottled grays with tans and reds.

9. *Celtis occidentalis* (E side, Storrs Hall) [G4] **Common Hackberry** is easily distinguished by its cork-like bark with warty protuberances and the distinctly asymmetrical base of each leaf. The orange-red to purple black fruits that are produced in September and October taste just like dates and are relished by wildlife. Too bad there is only a thin layer of edible flesh on each fruit! Hackberry is a native to the northeastern two thirds of the country and is a relative of the elms.

10. *Quercus alba* (NW corner, Beach Hall) [G5] The **White Oak** is the state tree of Connecticut because, in 1687, the Connecticut Charter was hidden from the English in a White Oak known as the Charter Oak. White Oaks are prized for their high quality wood; their acorns are an important food source for many birds, small mammals and deer. It is not uncommon for White Oaks to live to be hundreds of years old, and they make excellent large shade trees.

11. *Nyssa sylvatica* (SE, Wilbur Cross Bldg.) [F4] **Black Tupelo, Black Gum, Pepperidge** and **Sour Gum** are all common names for this medium to large shade tree that is native to Connecticut. During the summer the Black Tupelo wears lustrous dark green leaves that turn vivid shades of yellow, orange, red and purple in the fall. Honey bees love Black Tupelo flowers and bees that visit primarily *Nyssa* trees produce Tupelo honey, often considered a superior honey due to its delicate, distinctive flavor. Blue-black fruits that ripen in the early fall are relished by many song birds and migrating birds.

12. *Koeleruteria paniculata* (W, Gulley Hall) [F4] This small to medium-sized tree, known as the **Goldenrain Tree**, is at its horticultural peak in the summer and fall. In July, when few other trees are in bloom, this tree produces huge, showy panicles of many small yellow flowers. Fruits produced in the fall resemble inflated paper lanterns that change from green to orange-pink as they mature. Eventually they dry to tan and persist into the winter.

13. *Acer palmatum* var. *dissectum* 'Viridis' (S, Gulley) [F5] **Japanese Maples** are among the most popular small landscape trees. Many, such as this specimen, have a weeping habit and highly dissected purple leaves that enhance their ornamental appeal. In Japan, this species grows as an understory tree beneath the canopy of larger trees, much like our native Flowering Dogwood does in Connecticut.

14. *Fagus sylvatica* 'Atropunicea' (W side, Monteith Bldg.) [E4] This **European Copper Beech** is known around the campus as a special tree because of its "jumbo" proportions and copper colored summer foliage. The massive trunk on this tree measures over 20' in circumference and looks like a giant elephant leg. It is one of the special trees on campus. This species is immortalized in a Sherlock Holmes tale by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle ("The Adventures of the Copper Beeches").

15. *Heptacodium miconioides* (S entrance, Monteith Bldg.) [D4] The **Seven-son Flower** is a small tree that is relatively new to cultivation. This member of the honeysuckle family was recently brought to the United States from China. It reaches about 15-20' tall and is typically multi-stemmed. It is a special ornamental plant because it flowers in August/September, producing panicles of fragrant white flowers that attract butterflies. Flowers are followed by equally showy maroon sepals (petal-like structures) that last for another 2-3 weeks. Tan bark exfoliates to reveal attractive brown inner bark, which provides good winter interest.

16. *Sassafras albidum* (S side, Whitney Rd., across from Dodd Center) [D3] **Sassafras** can grow to be a medium-sized tree like this specimen, but we often see it growing natively in Connecticut as a colony of plants that have grown from root suckers. Sassafras has interesting sympodial branching where the terminal bud ceases to grow and a side bud takes over to produce the new shoot. It also has distinctive "mitten-shaped" leaves that can have two thumbs, single thumbs on either side or no thumbs at all. The roots or root bark have been used to make sassafras tea in the past, but - be wary - safrole, a chemical from the bark that ends up in the tea, is a potential carcinogen.

17. *Magnolia acuminata* (W, Arjona Bldg.) [D3] **Cucumbertree Magnolia** is one of the largest and most cold hardy magnolias. It can reach heights of 50-80 feet tall at maturity and can endure temperatures below -20°F. The tree's common name comes from the unripe green fruits that resemble small cucumbers. Cucumbertree Magnolia is native to the Appalachian Mountain range and plateau, especially from Pennsylvania southward. The greenish yellow flowers are not as showy as many other magnolias, but genes for yellow flower color from *M. acuminata* have been bred in to create new hybrid magnolias with showy yellow flowers.

18. *Liquidambar styraciflua* (NE, Wilson Hall) [C4] **American Sweetgum** is native and ubiquitous throughout the southeastern United States. It makes an excellent shade tree and is clothed in glossy green, star-shaped leaves during the summer. In October, many trees display excellent red and purple fall foliage. The fruits are spiky, 1" diameter balls that look like miniature medieval maces.

19. *Sophora japonica* 'Pendula' (*Styphnolobium japonicum* 'Pendula') (NW side, von der Mehden) [B5] The weeping form of the **Japanese Pagodatree** is a rare plant to begin with, but when you come across one this grand and old, it is really a unique find. Hands down, it is the largest in the state. The cascading green stems create the illusion of a waterfall, adding interest to the winter landscape. Compare this cultivar of the Japanese Pagodatree to the non-weeping species form you saw at #5.

20. *Pinus parviflora* (NE corner, von der Mehden) [B5] **Japanese White Pine** is a small, graceful looking tree that develops a flat-topped, spreading crown. It reaches heights of 20-40' and creates a striking landscape element wherever it is used. Due to its slow growth rate, this species is an excellent choice for many small, residential landscapes. Japanese White Pine is considered by many to be the quintessential species for classic bonsai.

21. *Pinus rigida* (lawn W, Mirror Lake) [D4] **Pitch Pine** is found on sandy, acidic soils in the northeastern United States. Those preferences make it the primary tree of the New Jersey Pine Barrens. It is fire resistant thanks to its thick, plate-like bark and ability after a fire to resprout directly from the trunk.

22. *Betula davurica* (lawn W, Mirror Lake) [D4] **Dahurian Birch** is an Asian birch species that is rarely seen in the United States. In many ways it is very similar to the North American River Birch, *Betula nigra*. It is a medium-sized tree that is most noteworthy for its showy bark that displays a color mixture of orange, silver, gray and brown. On young branches the bark peels in thin curls and on old branches it forms "puffed up" blocky squares. This tree has become home to two wooden tree swings that are regularly visited and enjoyed by students and campus visitors alike.

23. *Salix x blanda* (lawn W, Mirror Lake) [D4] There are several different species of willows that are known as weeping willows. The **Wisconsin Weeping Willow** is believed to be a hybrid, but the exact background of this species remains a mystery. Weeping willows can be spectacular plants if they are given sufficient space to expand and have adequately moist soils. They do tend to be a bit messy and are continually shedding small twigs.

24. *Abies holophylla* (NE corner, Family Studies) [F5] The **Manchurian Fir** or **Needle Fir** is a large evergreen coniferous tree that is native to parts of North Korea, Russia and China. It is rarely seen in New England, but can make a fine ornamental plant as this individual clearly demonstrates. This huge specimen is the largest of its kind in Connecticut. True firs, including *A. holophylla*, produce chunky, upright cones near the top of the tree that mature and disintegrate while still attached to the branches.

25. *Liriodendron tulipifera* (E of President's Garden on the Great Lawn) [F5] The **Tulip Tree** competes with the American Sycamore for the title of most massive North American deciduous tree. This specimen, planted in 1905, is the tallest tree on campus and has a circumference of over 13'. Tulip Tree refers to either the tulip-shaped leaves or the yellow-green tulip-like flowers.

26. *Ulmus glabra* 'Camperdownii' (by flagpole on the Great Lawn) [G5] This **Camperdown Elm** was planted in 1895 and survived transplantation plus the 1938 hurricane. Mature specimens such as this one are essentially priceless and irreplaceable. About 4' up on the trunk you can clearly see the union where the tree was grafted to the upright root stock of another elm species.

27. *Ginkgo biloba* (N, Great Lawn) [G6] **Ginkgo**, or **Maidenhair Tree**, is a deciduous gymnosperm that is more closely related to pines and spruces than to maples and oaks. During the growing season you can observe its distinct, fan-shaped leaves. Ginkgo is one of the best known examples of a living fossil. For centuries it was believed to be extinct, but was found growing in eastern China. Ginkgo trees are dioecious, so there are male and female individuals. Female trees produce seeds with a soft, odiferous (rancid butter), fruit-like exterior, but the interior "nut" is edible and used in traditional Asian cooking.

28. *Gymnocladus dioica* (N end, Great Lawn) [G6] If you like big leaves, the **Kentucky Coffeetree** is the tree for you. It has 3' long and 2' wide bipinnately compound leaves that are held on very stout twigs with the diameter of cigars. Female trees produce leathery pods that look like brown lima beans. Inside the pods are rock hard seeds the size of marbles that settlers to Kentucky are believed to have used as a coffee substitute. This large, deciduous tree is widely dispersed, but rare, through the central United States.

29. *Tsuga canadensis* 'Sargentii' (base of Great Lawn, opposite Horsebarn Hill Rd.) [G6] In the woods of Connecticut, the Eastern Hemlock can most often be found growing on north and east facing slopes, because it prefers the cooler summer temperatures found there. The species is a conical, evergreen tree to 70' tall, but the **Sargent's Weeping Hemlock** is a special cultivar that exhibits a distinctly pendulous habit and more limited growth. Despite its relatively small stature, this individual is actually an old and magnificent specimen of a weeping form.



Liriodendron tulipifera, Tulip Tree

UConn

Campus Tree Touring Guide



30. **Sequoiadendron giganteum** (S corner, W.B Young Bldg.) [G7]
Giant Sequoia is the world's largest tree in terms of total volume. In the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California these magnificent trees can grow to heights of more than 275' and have trunk diameters exceeding 25'. Furthermore, they can live to be over 3,000 years old. On the east coast of the U. S. trees reach heights of 60-100'. "Big Trees", as they are often called, are at the edge of their cold hardiness in Connecticut. Growth in the northeastern U. S. is limited by the fact that the ground often freezes before it snows, providing challenges for the root system.

31. **Metasequoia glyptostroboides** (SE corner, Agriculture Quadrangle [G6]
This tree was first described as a fossil in 1941 and was believed to be extinct, but a few years later a small stand of living trees was found in China. Like the Baldcypress, the **Dawn Redwood** is a deciduous conifer that loses its needles and some of its branches each year. It has only been in the United States since 1948, but has already proven to be a fast growing and desirable ornamental tree. Dawn Redwoods develop interestingly flared or buttressed trunks that look like braided bread with distinct "arm pits" beneath each branch.

32. **Acer buergerianum** (NW side, Young Bldg.) [H7] Hailing from eastern China, Korea and Japan, the **Trident Maple** stands apart from our native maples for its glossy, duck foot-shaped leaves, exfoliating bark, and ability to withstand tough conditions in the landscape. It has showy orange fall foliage and attractive bark. The specific epithet *buergerianum* honors German botanist Heinrich Burger, a 19th century German botanist who was hired by the Dutch to document the plants and animals of Japan.

33. **Larix decidua 'Varied Directions'** (NW corner, Young Bldg.) [H7]
Professor Sid Waxman (Department of Plant Science) is well known for breeding and selecting dwarf conifers. He often used densely branched mutations (Witches' Brooms) found on large trees as the source of unusual branching patterns for many of his new horticultural introductions. **Varied Directions European Larch**, with striking horizontal and pendulous branches growing in random directions, was one of his introductions. This individual is one of the first grafted by Dr. Waxman and is the largest in Connecticut.

34. **Kalopanax septemlobus (pictus)** (S side, White Bldg.) [H7] The **Castoraria** is from eastern Asia and is an interesting tree in a number of ways. Even though it is very cold hardy, it has tropical looking, large, palmate leaves. It is a member of the ginseng family and therefore is one of the few trees in Connecticut whose flowers are held in umbels. It also blooms late in the summer, long after buds have formed and the tree appears to be going dormant for the season. Watch out for the large, rose-like thorns that arm the stout branches! **Visit the Dairy Bar for ice cream treats!**

35. **Ilex opaca** (N side, N. Eagleville Rd., intersection of Glenbrook Rd.) [H5]
The **American Holly** fits the bill as a classic holly. It has toothed and spiny, evergreen leaves and produces showy red fruits that make it a popular Christmas decoration. It is uncommon this far north, and does not get as large in Connecticut as it does in the southeastern U.S. There are male and female holly trees, with only the females bearing the bright red fruits.

36. **Taxodium distichum** (N edge of Swan Lake) [H/15] This specimen was planted in 1936, but still has a long way to go to reach its age potential of 1000 years. Despite being a conifer like a pine, spruce, or redwood, the **Baldcypress** loses all of its leaves and its deciduous branches in the winter. This species is commonly found in the swamps of the southeastern U. S. and Gulf Coast where it often has "knees" protruding above the water that supply the roots with oxygen.

37. **Magnolia virginiana** (Atwater Laboratory entrance N. Eagleville Rd.) [I4]
The **Sweetbay Magnolia** is a little different from the more common saucer and star magnolias easily spotted blooming in Connecticut in early April. Sweetbay Magnolia blooms in June and the lemon-scent produced by the creamy white flowers can be a pleasant sensation in an early summer breeze. Another characteristic that makes Sweetbay Magnolia stand out is its semi-evergreen leaves that remain on the trees into early winter, revealing their silvery undersides as they blow in the wind.

38. **Styrax obassia** (Torrey Life Science Courtyard) [I3] The **Fragrant Snowbell** is a small tree that will grow to 20-30' tall. It produces fragrant, white, bell flowers in late spring that are borne in 8" long pendulous clusters. During the winter months, after the leaves have dropped, one can enjoy the eye-catching ash gray bark sported by the smooth and slightly fluted trunk and branches. The family Styracaceae is named after this genus and this species is native to parts of Japan and Korea.

39. **Hovenia dulcis** (Torrey Life Science Courtyard) [I3] The **Japanese Raisin Tree**, native to the mountains of the Far East, is a medium-sized tree that is just sufficiently cold hardy to survive in Storrs. In June and July, clusters of small greenish white, fragrant flowers attract many insects and bees. By fall, these flowers produce small, fleshy, brown fruits that ripen to bright red and have a flavor similar to a sweet raisin, giving the tree its common name. In addition to the actual raisin-like fruits, the branchlets of the fruit clusters become swollen and when chewed, release a honey-like substance.

40. **Oxydendrum arboreum** (SW, North Campus Residences) [J2] **Sourwood** is a small tree native to the southern Appalachian Mountains. It belongs to the Ericaceae family, is related to rhododendron, mountain laurel and blueberry, and therefore prefers cool, moist, but well-drained acidic soils. As an ornamental plant, the **Lily-of-the-Valley Tree**, as it is also known, has much to offer: white June flowers; lustrous summer leaves; vibrant red fall foliage and blocky "alligator hide" bark.

