

Campus Tree Guide



UNIVERSITY OF
CONNECTICUT
ARBORETUM
STORRS, CT

American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) — this native North American is typical of beeches with smooth gray bark, edible nuts, low branching, and a trunk that resembles an elephant's leg.

American Elm (*Ulmus americana* 'Valley Forge') — the premier street tree in the USA until Dutch Elm Disease (DED) was accidentally imported in 1928 on European logs; this is one of the most DED-resistant cultivars developed.

American Holly (*Ilex opaca*) — a classic holly; it bears toothed and spiny, evergreen leaves and showy red fruits on the female plants; uncommon this far north.

American Linden (*Tilia americana*) — fragrant flowers that are attractive to honeybees and moths; other common name is basswood referring to the tough inner bark.

American Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) — desirable shade tree with distinctive star-shaped leaves and good fall color; fruits are spiky 1" diameter balls that look like miniature medieval maces.

Amur Cork Tree (*Phellodendron amurense*) — bark is conspicuously ridged and furrowed and spongy or cork-like; an urban-adaptable tree.

Amur Maackia (*Maackia amurensis*) — native to the Far East; a small tree with white spiky flowers in midsummer; it can fix atmospheric nitrogen.

Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*) — a long-lived conifer that loses all of its leaves in the winter (hence, its name); commonly found in swamps of the SE U. S. where it often has "knees" protruding above the water that supply the roots with oxygen.

Black Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*) — medium to large shade tree native to Connecticut; leaves turn yellow, orange, red and purple in the fall; honeybees love the flowers; birds relish the blue-black fruits.

California Incense-cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*) — native to West Coast; distinctive flattened evergreen branches; bark on older trees is orange, grey, furrowed and fire resistant; wood is used for pencils and aromatic cedar chests.

Camperdown Elm (*Ulmus glabra* 'Camperdownii') — oldest class tree on campus (1895); note the union where the tree was grafted, 4' up on the trunk.

Castor-aralia (*Kalopanax septemlobus*) — from eastern Asia; tropical looking, palmate leaves; member of the ginseng family; flowers are held in umbels, rose-like thorns on the stout branches.

Chinese Quince (*Pseudocydonia sinensis*) — a small tree in the rose family; soft pink spring flowers and an egg-shaped fruit used in Chinese medicine; leaves turn orange and red in the fall; bark is also multi-colored and exfoliating.

Cinnamon Flake Maple (*Acer* x 'Cinnamon Flake') — a Prof. Sid Waxman (noted UConn plant breeder) hybrid between Paperbark and Nikko maples; bark is a rich brown "cinnamon stick" color peeling away in flakes.

Columnar Red Maple (*Acer rubrum* 'Columnare') — species name refers to the early spring red flowers and fall foliage; upright growth form makes this a good choice for small areas.

Common Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) — native to NE US; distinguished by corky bark with warty protuberances; distinctly asymmetrical leaf base; fruits taste like dates and are relished by wildlife.

Common Smoketree (*Cotinus coggygria*) — small tree/shrub presents a wispy "smoke-like" appearance from the plumy hairs on the flowers; purple-leaved cultivars are popular.

Crimean Linden (*Tilia x euchlora*) — a hybrid that originated in Ukraine and Crimea; fruits are sterile, thus propagated by cuttings; distinctive flattened branches exhibiting compression wood.

Cucumbertree Magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata*) — one of the largest and most cold hardy magnolias; native to the Appalachian Mts.; common name refers to unripe green fruits that resemble cucumbers; plants bear greenish/yellow flowers that hide amongst the foliage.

Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) — another conifer losing its needles each fall; notable flared buttressed trunks look like braided bread; first described as a fossil in 1941 and thought extinct; subsequently, a small stand of living trees was found in China and introduced into the US.

European Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) — a popular and tough street tree; various cultivars selected from this standard form; easily pruned, coppiced or pollarded.

Fernleaf European Beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Asplenifolia') — distinctive cut leaves suggestive of a fern frond; Beeches may live to 400 years.

Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) — small native tree with showy white or pink flowers and brilliant fall color; this is one of the 52 trees planted around Mirror Lake in 1953 by the UConn Horticulture Club on "Plant a Dogwood Day".



An Arbor Day Foundation Program

Giant Sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) — in the Sierra Nevada Mountains can grow to heights of more than 275' and live to be over 3,000 years old; they cannot reach that size in Connecticut where their growth is limited because the ground often freezes before it snows.

Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*) — an ancient tree with separate males and females; distinctive fan shaped deciduous leaves; a "living fossil" it is recorded in Chinese records from the 13th century; female Ginkgo trees have odiferous fruits.

Golden Larch (*Pseudolarix amabilis*) — leaves emerge bright green and transition to golden copper in the autumn before they fall; native to China; distinctive cones resemble small artichokes.

Golden Rain Tree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*) — small/medium-sized tree prized for summer yellow flowers and fruits that resemble paper lanterns.

Honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis*) — this hardy tree can tolerate poor soils; tiny leaflets and open canopy will not shade out lawn; *triacanthos* refers to large thorns but most landscape trees are var. *inermis* or thornless.

Horsechestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) — known for showy flowers in May and spiny fruit in autumn; European native and not a true chestnut; poisonous.

Japanese Falsecypress (*Chamaecyparis pisifera*) — typically grown as compact cultivars, this tree is the straight species; native to Japan; *pisifera* means 'pea bearing' in reference to the small, rounded cones.

Japanese Pagoda Tree (*Styphnolobium japonicum*) — medium-sized Asian tree that thrives in urban locations; produces large, pendulous clusters of creamy white, pea-like flowers in August that turn to green pods resembling a dangling string of beads.

Japanese Snowbell (*Styrax japonicus*) — vase-shaped when young but with age develops into a broadly rounded crown as you see here; has pendulous clusters of bell-shaped flowers and olive-shaped fruits.

Japanese Umbrella Pine (*Sciadopitys verticillata*) — largest of several planted on campus; an evergreen native to Japan and is a "living fossil"; long, stout needles held in whorls at the end of the stems.

Japanese White Pine (*Pinus parviflora*) — small evergreen tree that develops a flat-topped, spreading crown; slow growth makes this tree an excellent choice for residential landscapes and an ideal species for bonsai.

Katsuratree (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*) — fast growing trees native to Japan and China; can reach over 100' in the wild but smaller in cultivation; leaves turn yellow, orange, and red in the fall and smell like cotton candy.

Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*) — 3' long and 2' wide doubly compound leaves are held on very stout twigs with the diameter of cigars; female trees produce seeds in leathery pods that settlers are believed to have used as a coffee substitute; seeds are poisonous if not roasted.

Kobus Magnolia (*Magnolia kobus*) — species name from Japanese word meaning fist, referring to flower bud's shape; one of the earliest spring flowering magnolias.

Korean Stewartia (*Stewartia koreana*) — small tree notable for its exfoliating colorful bark and large creamy white flowers.

Lacebark Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*) — medium-sized tree and the best elm for landscape use in Connecticut; handsome, flaking bark of mottled grays with tans and reds.

Mountain Silverbell (*Halesia monticola*) — medium-sized tree native to Appalachian Mts.; bell-shaped white spring flowers giving way to four winged 2-inch-long dry fruits in the fall.

Needle Fir (*Abies holophylla*) — large conifer that is native to parts of western Asia; chunky, upright cones near the treetops disintegrate scattering seeds while still attached to the tree.

Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*) — pyramidal evergreen that can reach 200'; native to the mountains of northern and central Europe; resistant to deer browsing and often used in windbreaks; secondary branches become pendulous as the tree matures.

Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*) — name refers to thin white bark that peels like paper; can be short-lived; state tree of New Hampshire.

Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*) — fast growing and pollution tolerant tree; unusual branching habit: the lower branches angle downward, the middle branches are horizontal, and the upper branches ascend; often hold their dry leaves through the winter.

Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*) — found on sandy, acidic soils in CT; fire resistant due to thick, plate-like bark and ability to resprout from the trunk; the primary tree of the NJ Pine Barrens.

Pond Cypress (*Taxodium distichum* var. *imbricarium*) — deciduous conifer (cone bearing); can withstand extended periods of flooding; native to the swamps of the SE US where it develops knobby, conical "knees".

Purple-leaf Beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Atropunicea') — known for its "jumbo" proportions and copper-colored foliage; massive trunk measures over 20' in circumference and looks like an elephant's leg.

Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) — fast growing (50'-75' tall and wide) and tolerant of salt and air pollution, thus good for urban areas; native to eastern US.

River Birch (*Betula nigra*) — a popular fast-growing birch; attractive pink to reddish brown exfoliating bark; native to riverbanks in the eastern US; resistant to bronze birch borer.

Sargent's Weeping Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis* 'Sargentii') — a cultivar of the native Eastern Hemlock with a distinctly pendulous habit.

Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) — CT native; can grow in a root sucker colony; distinctive "mitten-shaped" leaves can have two thumbs, single thumbs on either side or none at all.

Scotch Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) — most widely distributed pine in the world; Scotland's national tree; orange red bark; needles in groups of two; conical when young becoming more rounded as it matures.

Seven-son Flower (*Heptacodium miconioides*) — multi-stemmed small tree; fragrant white flowers, with red sepals in August that attract pollinators; trunks covered in light tan exfoliating bark.

Shingle Oak (*Quercus imbricaria*) — distinguished from most oaks by its leaves, which are shaped like laurel leaves and lack the typical oak lobes.

Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*) — fast-growing native tree usually found along waterways; fast growth produces brittle wood and planting location should be carefully considered.

Slippery Elm (*Ulmus rubra*) — sometimes an ingredient in throat lozenges taken from its inner, slippery, bark; native; susceptible to Dutch Elm Disease.

Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum* 'Commemoration') — best known as the source for maple syrup and stunning fall foliage; this cultivar was developed for its fast growth and glossy, tatter-resistant, leaves.

Sycamore Maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) — native to Central Europe/Asia; hardy tree that tolerates coastal and windy exposures.

Three-flowered Maple (*Acer triflorum*) — small tree of multi-season interest; attractive peeling bark and fall foliage; native to NE China and Korea.

Tortuosa European Beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Tortuosa') — note branch pattern to see the contorted habit of this cultivar.

Trident Maple (*Acer buergerianum*) — native to Far East; withstands harsh conditions; glossy, duck foot-shaped leaves with showy fall foliage; exfoliating bark.

Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) — tallest tree on campus at 113'; native to CT; name refers to either the tulip-shaped leaves or the yellow-green flowers.

Turkish Filbert (*Corylus colurna*) — like birch, it bears male and female catkins; a great tree for urban environments where it makes a formal statement.

Varied Directions Larch (*Larix decidua* 'Varied Directions') — striking horizontal and pendulous branches growing in random directions; one of the first introductions by UConn Prof. Sidney Waxman whose work focused on selecting dwarf conifers.

Weeping Japanese Pagodatree (*Styphnolobium japonicum* 'Pendula') — cascading green stems create the illusion of a waterfall; this is a very large, mature example of this unique weeping form that is priceless.

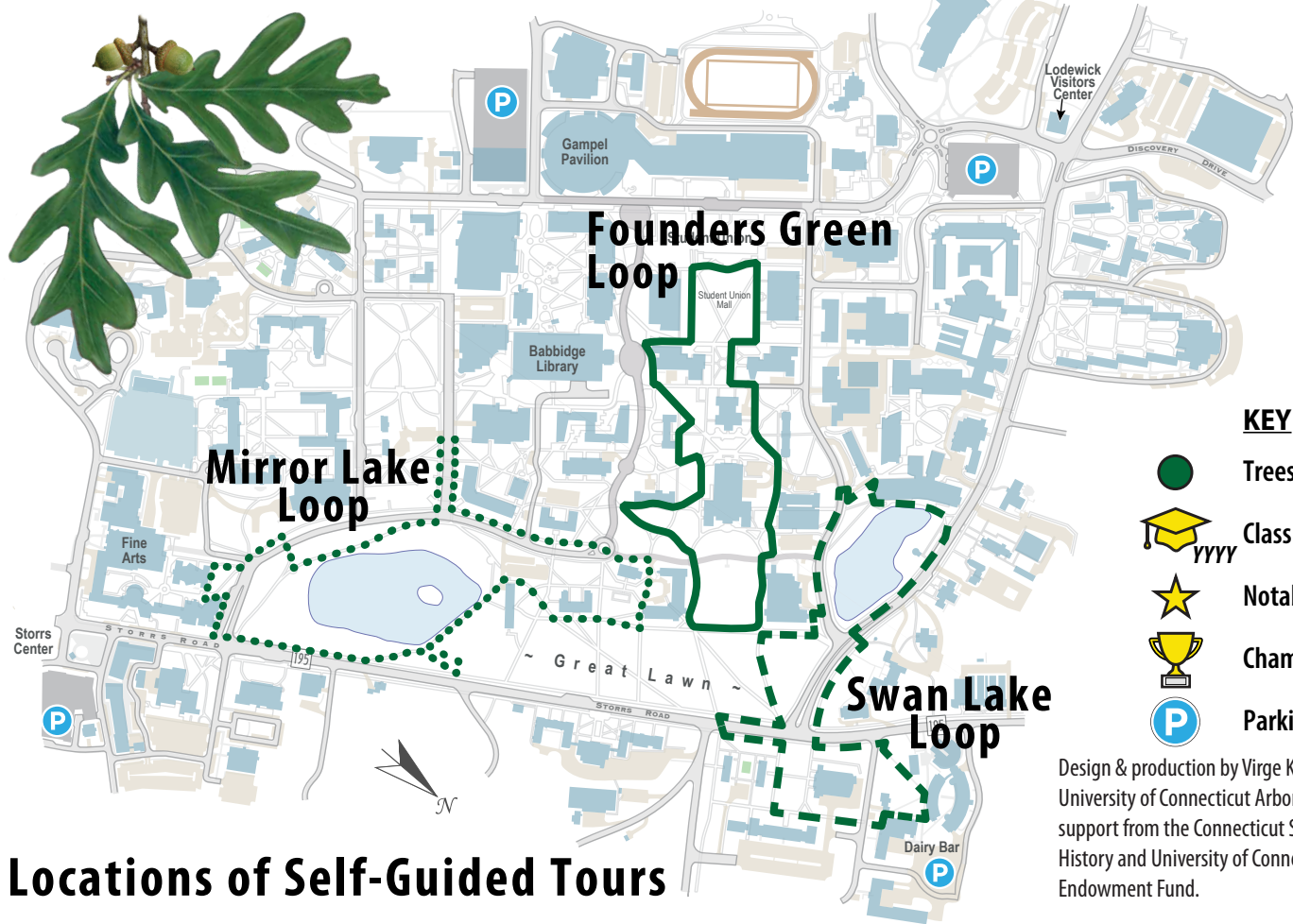
White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*) — a fast-growing deciduous tree native to New England adaptable to urban conditions; one of the first trees to show fall color; Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive beetle, has killed many of the CT ash, this one is treated to protect it from this pest.

White Oak (*Quercus alba*) — State tree of CT; one of 2 Charter Oak descendants planted at UConn to commemorate the 1965 State Constitutional Convention; long-lived; acorns are an important source of food for wildlife; valuable hard wood.

Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*) — leaves are long and narrow, like the leaves of willows; native to the SE US floodplains; acorns are favored wildlife food.

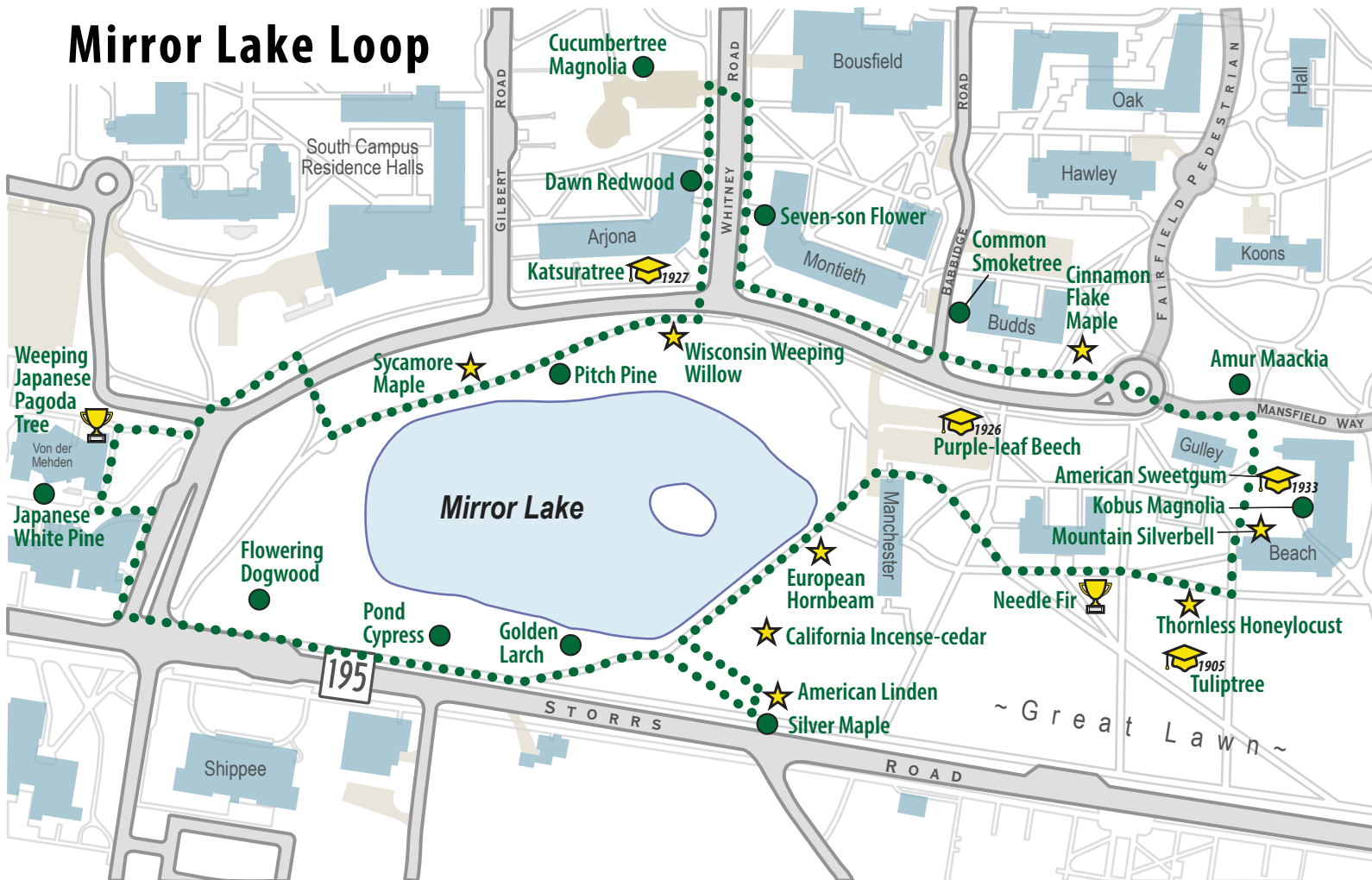
Wisconsin Weeping Willow (*Salix x blanda*) — one of many species of willows that are known as weeping willows; grows better in moist soils; particularly notable if given sufficient space.

Yellow Buckeye (*Aesculus flava*) — large US tree; 6-inch-long panicles of yellow flowers in May; brown nutlike fruits ("buckeyes") at the end of the summer.



Locations of Self-Guided Tours

Mirror Lake Loop



The **University of Connecticut Arboretum** is a living laboratory supporting the academic mission and strategic vision of our institution. It is an asset of great beauty and scientific interest to our campus community, our state, and all its visitors. It is open to the public year-round, free of charge.

The “campus as arboretum” was first conceived of by Alfred G. Gulley in 1894. Since 1985, this concept has been embraced and actively managed by committed leaders, volunteers, faculty, staff, and students who comprise the Arboretum Committee. In 2013, UConn became the first college in Connecticut, and only the third school in New England, designated as a Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. The Arboretum was internationally accredited in 2024 and listed in the Morton Register of Arboreta, joining more than 2,400 arboreta worldwide.

This brochure will assist you with self-guided tours of select trees within the Arboretum along three one-hour, approximately one mile, loops. You may begin at any point along the route and refer to this document or signs beside the trees for descriptions. You may also visit s.uconn.edu/arboretummap to view a GIS-based map of these tours and an inventory of all the Arboretum trees. Champion Trees and Notable Trees are defined by Connecticut College. Additional information on the University of Connecticut Arboretum is available at arboretum.uconn.edu. Contributions to the Endowment Fund can be made at <https://www.foundation.uconn.edu/fund/university-of-connecticut-arboretum-endowment/>.

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Founders Green Loop

Swan Lake Loop

