



Where did those plants come from?

The Tucson desert is filled with prickly pear cactus and saguaro, but step onto the University of Arizona campus and a new world of plants emerges. The celebration of the Campus Arboretum's 20th anniversary is a time for reflecting on the rich botanical diversity and history of the plants on campus. The Arboretum includes everything from the iconic saguaro to the bizarre Boojum, a spiky treelike succulent whose appearance has been likened to an upside-down carrot.

"we need those weird plants that capture our attention, that stand out. And then we have an opportunity to educate further about plants and our relationship with them."

[Read about half-dozen campus species that are bound to turn heads.](https://uaatwork.arizona.edu/lqj/half-dozen-surprising-plants-youll-find-university-arizona)

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Meet the Arboretum's Fall 2022 Student Team!



This November, the Campus Arboretum is thankful for our amazing team of student interns. These interns have been hard at work since the summer writing species descriptions, caring for and hosting tours featuring the weird plants in the Mark Dimmitt Desert Plant Conservatory, creating signage for the species on campus, and ground truthing plant accessions to enhance the accuracy of our inventory. Their individual projects have been furthering the Arboretum's mission of connecting people with plants by using the campus landscape for education and research.

[Read more about our dedicated student interns](#)

<https://arboretum.arizona.edu/2022-student-workers-and-interns>

Featured Plant: Firecracker Bush

Common Name: firecracker bush

Family Name: Acanthaceae

Botanical Name: *Justicia spicigera*

Justicia spicigera is native to NE Mexico and into the Southern tropical areas of Mexico. It is a broadleaf evergreen shrub that produces red-orange trumpet-shaped blooms from summer to winter. These nectar-filled blooms are adored by hummingbirds but also attract other bird and butterfly

species. Blooms are best in shady summer-locations and sunny winter location and the plant does well as a container plant or as a colorful counter-point to other desert shrubs growing in the landscape.

[Click here to read more or find this plant on campus](#)



<https://apps.cals.arizona.edu/arboretum/taxon.aspx?id=1119>

Campus Arboretum Tree Tours



For more than 100 years the UA campus grounds have utilized the Tucson climate for testing arid-adapted trees. Over the years, this research has decorated the Campus Arboretum with a collection of unusual and delightful specimens.

Want to see some of those weird plants?

Join the Pima Co. Master Gardeners for the
"Trees Around the World Tour"
Sunday, November 27th, 2022 at 9:30am.

The Trees around the World tour features unique trees and presents their traditional uses and associated folklore.

Email infoarboretum@cals.arizona.edu to RSVP for the tour.

Find the full schedule of Fall Tours here:
https://arboretum.arizona.edu/tree_tours

CLICK HERE TO DONATE

Promote stewardship and conservation of urban trees in Arizona.

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