

University of Arizona Campus Arboretum Plant Walk

Developed by Warren Jones, 1989.

Revised by Benjamin Brandt, 2009.



1. Baobab (*Adansonia za*)

SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING NEAR THE STAIRS. This is the most widespread Baobab tree in Madagascar. Ours is flowering size, and possibly the largest cultivated specimen in North America. But it is still young. Ancient plants in habitat may reach 30 meters tall. The tree flowers sparingly in summer, with large yellow- orange blossoms.



2. Lacebark Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*)

FLANKING FOUNTAINS IN ALUMNI PLAZA
Statuesque trees with interesting bark.



3. Texas Red Oak (*Quercus buckleyi*)

ALUMNI HILL AND PLAZA
One of the few "fall color" oaks in the southwest.



4. Mexican Fan Palm (*Washingtonia robusta*)

SOUTH OF MODERN LANGUAGES

This very tall and slim palm tree is the tallest growing palm seen in Arizona landscaping. It is known for its slender grace: native to the oases of the lower Sonoran desert.



5. White-Thorn Acacia (*Acacia constricta*)

JOSEPH WOOD KRUTCH CACTUS GARDEN

A small native Arizona tree. Good for dry-climate landscaping. It has attractive yellow flowers and rather unpleasant spines.



6. Slipper Plant (*Pedilanthus macrocarpus*)

EAST SIDE OF KRUTCH GARDEN

Interesting succulent with vertical form and orange "slipper" flowers



7. Barrel Cactus (*Ferocactus wislizeni*)

JOSEPH WOOD KRUTCH CACTUS GARDEN

This is the common barrel cactus found around Tucson and farther East.



8. Ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*)

IN THE WOOD KRUTCH DESERT GARDEN

An unusual thorny desert shrub, but it is not a cactus!! Leaves out within days following a summer rain and sheds the leaves often within weeks when drought returns. This may be repeated several times a summer, depending on frequency of rainstorms.



9. Boojum (*Fouquieria columnaris*)

IN THE JOSEPH WOOD KRUTCH DESERT GARDEN

This bizarre form evokes much curiosity about this grand relative of an ocotillo. Boojum forests exist in Baja California, and one area in Sonora, Mexico.



10. Saguaro Cactus (*Carnegiea gigantea*)

ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE JOSEPH WOOD KRUTCH DESERT GARDEN

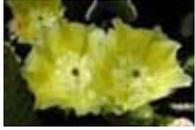
The most famous Arizona plant- the blossom is the state flower- the fruit is eaten by Native Americans and the very hard, woody ribs that reinforce the huge succulent structure were used for building material by early settlers. There is more information on Saguaros at the Saguaro National Monument site.



11. Catclaw Acacia (*Acacia greggii*)

NORTHWESTERN SIDE OF THE JOSEPH WOOD KRUTCH CACTUS GARDEN Large

tree with cream colored flowers. Infamous to hikers, who know well the nasty little catclaw spines which grab and snag clothes and skin.



12. Bunny-Ears Prickly-Pear (*Opuntia microdasys*)

JOSEPH WOOD KRUTCH CACTUS GARDEN

A popular cultivated prickly-pear. It looks spineless, but beware of tiny, stinging glochids!



13. Organ Pipe Cactus (*Stenocereus thurberi*)

IN THE JOSEPH WOOD KRUTCH DESERT GARDEN

This striking arborescent cactus of the lower Sonoran desert has beautiful white flowers and delicious fruit. There is more information on this cactus at the Organ Pipe National Monument site.



14. Senita Cactus (*Pachycereus schottii*)

JOSEPH WOOD KRUTCH CACTUS GARDEN

A primarily Mexican cactus which barely finds a home warm enough for itself in Southernmost Arizona.



15. Devil's Club Cholla (*Grusonia kunzei*)

SOUTH END OF THE JOSEPH WOOD KRUTCH CACTUS GARDEN

A low sprawling cactus forming a formidable groundcover. Prevents pedestrians from cutting corners through the cactus garden!



16. Southern Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*)

NORTH OF THE SCIENCE LIBRARY

This native to the Old South is associated with the moss-draped alleys of the Mississippi plantations. This tree seems to be very happy in lawns of Arizona, without the Spanish moss. State tree of Georgia.



17. Calotrope (*Calotropis procera*)

NORTHWEST SIDE OF THE SCIENCE LIBRARY, SOUTH OF CACTUS GARDEN A straggly shrub with large leaves and big, attractive milkweed flowers.



18. Vara Prieta or Palo Piojo (*Brongniartia alamosana*)

NORTHWEST WALL OF SCIENCE LIBRARY, SOUTH OF CACTUS GARDEN

A rare plant in landscaping. It is not remarkable when out of the bloom, but in season the red pea-flowers are attractive and unique.



19. California Fan Palm (*Washingtonia filifera*)

RUNNING EAST AND WEST ALONG THE MALL

Shorter and stockier than the Mexican fan palm: native to oases in California, and Baja California, and also native in several secluded canyons.



20. Texas Olive or Anacahuita (*Cordia boissieri*)

NORTHWEST OF NUGENT AT SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE MALL

This shrub or small tree can flower almost year-round with attractive white blossoms.



21. Cat's Claw (*Macfadyena unguis-cati*)

COVERS THE ARCHES EAST OF FORBES.

A strong, rapid-growing vine which climbs by its own devices. It clings on brick and other masonry; has a brief spectacular display of yellow trumpet-shaped flowers followed by pods which resemble catalpa tree pods, to which it is related.



22. Canary Island Pine (*Pinus canariensis*)

TWO TREES ON NORTHEAST CORNER OF FORBES

A very striking vertical pine with beautiful long silky needles- from the Canary Islands as you might deduce from its name. Adapted to dry conditions in its native habitat as its needles condense water vapor which drips down to the roots.



23. California Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*)

NORTH OF FORBES

Native to the lower slopes of the Sierra Nevada and the coast range in California. Plentiful on the Yosemite valley floor.



24. South American Mesquite (*Prosopis alba*)

TREES LINING SOUTH DRIVE BETWEEN FORBES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES Often mistakenly called Chilean Mesquite. These trees are representative of Southern hemisphere mesquites. Some are believed to be hybrids. South American Mesquites have become popular for shade in Arizona because they tolerate difficult soils and require less water than most shade trees. They are also nearly evergreen which the North American Mesquites are not.

25. Desert Willow (*Chilopsis linearis*)

SOUTHWEST OF OLD MAIN



This is an example of a low-branching desert willow, a deciduous flowering tree of the desert Southwest. The tree is not really a willow in spite of its appearance. Actually it is a relative of the catalpa and is found growing along dry water courses of Chihuahuan and Sonoran deserts. The showy flowers occur in spring and summer and range in color from white to purple.

26. Jojoba (*Simmondsia chinensis*)

WEST OF OLD MAIN'S SOUTHWEST CORNER



This compact shrub - at one time thought to be a desert relative of boxwood - produces a nut rich in oils and waxes which rivals the valuable sperm whale oil in quality. Much work is now being done to grow this plant commercially, and perhaps save the whale from predation.

27. Sotol (*Dasyliirion wheeleri*)

SOUTHEAST CORNER OF OLD MAIN



Sometimes called the desert spoon because of the spoon-shaped base to each leaf which is prized for dried flower arrangements. Its bloom appears more like an eight-foot sheath of grain than a blossom.

28. Arizona Mesquite (*Prosopis velutina*)

IN OPEN AREA SOUTHEAST OF OLD MAIN



This venerable velvet mesquite is typical of the great specimens that once dominated the forest near San Xavier Mission south of Tucson. Mesquites provide lumber, cabinet wood and fuel to Arizonans.

29. Smooth-Bark Arizona Cypress (*Cupressus arizona glabra*)

ON THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF OLD MAIN



This is a much-admired cone-bearing tree found in the transitional area between the desert and high country; sometimes used for wind breaks.

30. Little-Leaf Palo Verde (*Parkinsonia microphylla*)

EAST OF OLD MAIN



This Sonoran Desert native can be found in abundance in the areas surrounding Tucson. Its photosynthesising branches and tiny leaves make it well adapted to this hot, arid environment.

31. Multi-Trunked Date Palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*)

NORTHEAST OF OLD MAIN



This multi-trunked example of the Arab date is uncommon to Arizona. The many trunks are seldom seen because the young side shoots are usually removed to start new date orchards. This date palm was a gift to the College of Agriculture by Iraqi students in 1955.



32. Crested Saguaro Cactus (*Carnegiea gigantea*)

NORTHEAST OF OLD MAIN

This is noticeable for its crown-shaped top. Cresting appears in many species of unrelated plants and is little understood. The crest may be a lateral dividing of the growing tip.



33. Soaptree Yucca (*Yucca elata*)

NORTHEAST OF OLD MAIN

Named from the Native Americans' use of the roots for soap; the leaves were used for basket weaving. Good accent landscape plant.



34. Arizona Ironwood (*Olneya tesota*)

OPEN AREA NORTHWEST OF OLD MAIN

Most valuable tree in the Sonoran Desert, sheltering small seedlings, protecting animals, and providing food.



35. Oriental Arborvitae (*Platycladus orientalis*)

NORTHWEST CORNER OF OLD MAIN Classic foundation shrub, now grown huge



36. Blue Palo Verde (*Parkinsonia florida*)

NORTH OF OLD MAIN'S WEST ENTRANCE

Though deciduous, its green bark makes it possible to carry out plant functions when the climate is too dry to support leaves. Very showy yellow bloom in springtime.



37. Century Plant (*Agave americana*)

NORTH OF OLD MAIN'S WEST ENTRANCE

Used for fiber in Mexico. After a number of years (not a century as the legend goes-more like 20 years) the plant throws up a giant twenty foot blossom stalk. It blooms, produces and dies. Seedlings and little off-shoot plants start the cycle all over again.



38. Creosote (*Larrea tridentata*)

NORTH OF STAIRCASE ON WEST SIDE OF OLD MAIN

Native to the Southwestern deserts and northern Mexico, its yellow flowers appear mainly in the spring, followed by small, fuzzy seed balls. The leaves secrete a gummy resin that makes them look lacquered and contributes to the pungent fragrances after rains.



39. Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis*)

SOUTH OF OLD MAIN FOUNTAIN

These trees are representative of a pine that is abundant from the Mediterranean area to the almost desert regions of North Africa. They are well-adapted to Southern Arizona.



40. Sissoo (*Dalbergia sissoo*)

NORTH OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, WEST OF ENTRANCE

Fast-growing evergreen tree from India. A legume tree, its roots put nitrogen back into the soil via nitrogen fixing nodules.



41. White Bark Cottonwood (*Populus brandegeei*)

NORTHWEST OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

This is an import from Sonora, Mexico. Fast-growing, it makes a beautiful shade tree for lawns and wet areas - not for the water-efficient garden.



42. Rio Yaqui Cottonwood (*Populus mexicana dimorpha*)

NORTHEAST OF DOUGLASS

This is also an import from South of the border. Very fast growing and also used as a beautiful shade tree.



43. Indian Cedar (*Cedrus deodara*)

WEST OF DOUGLASS

Also known as Deodar cedar, one of the few true cedars. Native to the Himalayan mountains of the old world. The cedar ramada was constructed of wood from an 80-year old specimen which stood here.



44. Montezuma Cypress (*Taxodium mucronatum*)

IN LAWN JUST NORTH OF INDIAN CEDARS

In Mexico this cypress is thought to be as old as the California redwoods. From the old gardens of Mexico where it has been a prized tree since Montezuma's time, it is a water-loving tree and can almost be counted as an Arizona native since it ranges from Central Mexico to within 90 miles of the border. Found along streams and wet places from Sonora southward.



45. Thornless Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos inermis*)

IN THE LAWN, NORTHWEST OF THE CEDAR RAMADA

This native to the South and Midwest has become a very important urban tree because of its great tolerance to pollution and harsh city conditions. It was brought to Arizona by early Anglo settlers.



46. Columnar Italian Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens* 'Stricta')

SOUTH OF COMMUNICATIONS

Gracing this part of campus is the classic columnar spire of the Mediterranean area. It is admired for its strong vertical accent and the deep green it adds to the landscape.



47. Chinese Pistache (*Pistacia chinensis*)

BETWEEN COMMUNICATIONS AND ARIZONA STATE MUSEUM (NORTH)

This is an excellent deciduous shade tree for this region and one of the few that produce bright Autumn color in Arizona. Female trees have handsome purple berries which last into winter after the leaves have dropped.



48. Mount Atlas Pistache (*Pistacia atlantica*)

NORTHEAST OF ARIZONA STATE MUSEUM (NORTH BLDG)

This deciduous tree is a native of North Africa and has great desert tolerance. Old trees have survived for centuries in such austere deserts as the Negev in Israel. It is not as colorful in fall as is the Chinese Pistache.



49. Mexican Blue Palm (*Brahea armata*)

EAST OF ARIZONA STATE MUSEUM (NORTH BLDG)

Flowers mid-June to winter with exceptionally long cream colored streamers followed by thick clusters of marble-like fruits. The palms are prized for their bluish foliage.



50. Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*)

EAST OF STATE MUSEUM

These trees were famed in songs and stories of the Old South. They are admired in the desert Southwest for their glossy evergreen foliage and magnificent fragrant white flowers twelve inches in diameter. They tolerate the heat but need plenty of water and half-day shade.



51. Velvet Ash (*Fraxinus velutina*)

IN LAWN WEST OF MAIN ENTRANCE OF ARIZONA STATE MUSEUM (NORTH BLDG)

Southwestern native, common in riparian areas.



52. Hindu Laurel (*Cocculus laurifolius*) AGAINST STATE MUSEUM (NORTH BLDG)

The shiny rich foliage of this large shrub or small tree attracts much attention because of its similarity to the classical Grecian laurel. This laurel is from the Himalayan Mountains.



53. Olive (*Olea europaea*)

TREES RUNNING NORTH AND SOUTH ALONG THE WALKWAY IN GREENBELT WEST OF ARIZONA STATE MUSEUM (NORTH BLDG)

The Olive is a classic Old World tree cultivated from pre-biblical times. It is valued for its wood, form, fruit and beautiful silvery foliage. It is a heavy pollen producer but one of the best broadleaf evergreen landscape trees in Arizona. These trees were planted around 1900 by Robert Forbes.



54. Cunningham Beefwood (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*)

IN GREENBELT AREA WEST OF ARIZONA STATE MUSEUM (NORTH BLDG)

This Australian genus of plants is an important reforestation tree for many arid, treeless regions of the World. It is tolerant of a wide variety of conditions from seashore to desert highlands.



55. Cork Oak (*Quercus suber*)

IN GREENBELT WEST OF ARIZONA STATE MUSEUM

This famous Mediterranean native produces exceptionally thick bark, and serves as the main source of commercial cork around the world. The bark, which can grow to be over an inch thick, can be carefully harvested from a mature tree every ten years.



56. Chinese Jujube (*Ziziphus jujuba*)

IN GREENBELT WEST OF ARIZONA STATE MUSEUM

Brought here by the Chinese railroad workers, this Oriental immigrant has long been grown in Arizona. It is prized for its delicious (dry) fruit, attractive foliage and interesting silhouette. Very tolerant of drought, yet enjoys lawn situations, too.



57. Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*)

NORTH SIDE OF CAMPUS DRIVE

This multiple-trunked, small, deciduous flowering tree of great beauty has purple/pinkish flowers, but comes in many other colors ranging from white to purple. It has graced gardens from earliest times and seeds may have been brought to Europe from the Orient by Marco Polo. One of the first Old World ornamentals planted in colonial gardens, some of these are still alive at the Governor's Palace in Williamsburg, Virginia.



58. Carob (*Ceratonia siliqua*)

SOUTHWEST CORNER BY THE LAVA WALL

This broadleaf evergreen is sometimes called St. John's Bread or Locust of the Bible. The bean pod is often used as a source of nutrients for humans and animals in the Mediterranean region. Carob is used as a substitute for chocolate and also for a sweetener.



59. Western Hackberry (*Celtis reticulata*)

NORTHWEST CORNER OF GILA HALL

This native tree has been long prized for the shade it provides to hot southwestern landscapes.



60. Weeping Thuja (*Platyclusus orientalis* 'Pendula')

SOUTHWEST CORNER OF GILA HALL

This unusual weeping conifer is of considerable age - over 100 years old. It is no longer grown by nurseries.



61. Red Gum or Red River Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*)

SOUTHEAST SIDE OF GILA HALL –

This grand scale tree from Australia is probably one of the biggest trees in Southern Arizona. This one is approximately 80 feet high. It is a very important species as a source of wood, for reforestation, and for windbreaks throughout the arid, treeless regions of the subtropical world.



62. Horse Radish Tree (*Moringa oleifera*)

SOUTH EAST CORNER OF GILA HALL

One of the great ethnobotanical "medicine chest" trees of the tropics.



63. Sour Orange (*Citrus aurantium*)

WALKWAY EAST OF GILA HALL

This walkway was once a clipped hedge that got away and became trees. Its fragrant flowers and colorful sour fruit are used to make marmalade. Orange Walk is a popular UA landmark.



64. Alligator Bark Juniper (*Juniperus deppeana*)

DIRECTLY SOUTH OF ORANGE TREE WALKWAY

This Southwest native is found growing at middle elevations on desert mountainsides and plateaus. It also thrives at Tucson's elevation and lower if given supplemental water. Bark resembles alligator hide.



65. Sabal Palmetto (*Sabal palmetto*)

SOUTHEAST OF JUNIPER (previous tree)

Native to the Southeastern states and along the Gulf of Mexico, this palm is hardy to cold but very slow growing.



66. Lilac Chaste or Monk Pepper Tree (*Vitex agnus-castus*)

WEST AND EAST OF MAIN ENTRANCE TO MARICOPA HALL

This attractive deciduous plant from the dry regions of the Old World is especially suited to Arizona climate. It can be a small tree or shrub depending on the amount of water and the training it receives. There are selections with attractive blue flowers which bloom in the summer.



67. African Sumac (*Rhus lancea*)

IN THE COVE BETWEEN MARICOPA AND YUMA HALLS

This is the first African sumac ever planted in Arizona. It was planted in Arizona during the 1920s and is the largest in the state. This well-adapted desert evergreen tree was introduced from South Africa to Arizona by Homer LeRoy Shantz, a former dean of agriculture who later served as president of the University. It is quite drought resistant, but can become weedy.



68. Chinese Redbud (*Cercis chinensis*)

IN LAWN AREA SOUTH OF YUMA AND MARICOPA HALLS

This Chinese shrub is one of the many Eastern immigrants brought west by early Anglo settlers. It is deciduous and has bright purple blossoms in early spring, giving a nostalgic Eastern touch to the Arizona scene.



69. Bunya Bunya (*Araucaria bidwillii*)

SOUTH OF YUMA HALL

This strange, Australia-native conifer, was originally a houseplant and had been donated for an experimental planting. With its native habitat being rainforests in coastal Queensland, there was some doubt as to how well it would do here on campus. However since its planting, and through one relocation, it has grown quite accustomed to the campus environment.



70. Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)

EAST OF C.E.S.L., NEXT TO THE BUILDING – removed in 2012

This deciduous, temperate-zone tree, originally from the interior of China, has been carried by Western man to wherever it will grow in the northern and southern hemispheres. It tolerates more air pollution than any other tree and is a familiar sight in most large temperate-zone cities where it often becomes a weed.



71. Sonoran Palmetto (*Sabal uresana*)

BETWEEN C.E.S.L. AND ECONOMICS

This Sonoran desert palm with its unusual feather fan type leaf is found in moist places in Sonora, Mexico. A much harder palm than some species commonly planted, it is somewhat slow growing but deserves a much wider use. This one was planted by desert ecologist Forrest Shreve prior to 1940.



72. Bidwell's Choral Tree (*Erythrina x bidwillii*)

SOUTH SIDE OF C.E.S.L.

This hybrid flowering tree is a member of a tropical clan, all of which have showy flowers. This tree combines the cold tolerance of one parent with the heat tolerance of the other.



73. Sand Paper Tree (*Ehretia anacua*)

EAST OF THE SOUTH ENTRANCE TO C.E.S.L.

This south-Texas native produces beautiful, fragrant flowers in the spring and early summer. In its native area it is often called the Sand Paper tree due to the rough texture of its leaves.



74. Yellow Oleander (*Thevetia peruviana*)

EAST OF THE ENTRANCE TO C.E.S.L.

This large shrub is a native to the new-world tropics, but is used quite extensively as a landscaping shrub throughout the warmer areas of the United States. In Tucson, it produces beautiful yellow to peach colored flowers in the spring, summer, and monsoon seasons.



75. Sinaloan Silk Tree (*Albizia sinaloensis*)

SOUTHEAST CORNER OF COMMUNICATION

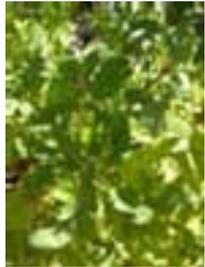
This evergreen tree with beautiful feather-like leaves is found in wash areas in the Southern end of the Sonoran desert.



76. Fish-Poison Tree (*Piscidia mollis*)

SOUTHWESTERN SIDE OF CHAVEZ

This native to Sonora, Mexico has made a wonderful addition to the collection of tropical, arid-growing trees found here on campus. As its common name implies, its leaves contain toxic compounds which are poisonous to fish.



77. Trumpet Bush (*Tecoma stans stans*)

SOUTH OF CHAVEZ

This native to Southern Arizona ranges all the way to South America and into the Caribbean. It becomes a small tree in frost-free climates. The abundant display of yellow trumpet flowers adds a sunny touch to any scene and often attracts hummingbirds.



78. Silk Oak (*Grevillea robusta*)

SOUTH OF CHAVEZ

This is not an oak at all. It makes a large rather vertical tree with very decorative evergreen foliage. This Australian native is planted over the warmer regions of the world and is admired for its finely-cut lacy leaves and showy orange flowers in mid-spring.



79. Texas Ebony (*Ebenopsis ebano*)

SOUTHWEST SIDE OF CHAVEZ

A low water use tree with unusual dark green foliage.



80. Assyrian Plum (*Cordia myxa*)
WEST SIDE OF SOUTH FACE OF ENGINEERING BLDG
Sprawling shrub/tree with round leaves and tasty fruit.



81. Floss Silk Tree (*Chorisia insignis* and *Chorisia speciosa*)
SOUTH END OF ENGINEERING
These unusual South American trees are often referred to by UA students as the "Horn Toad Trees". They are deciduous for a period in winter. *Chorisia insignis* produces showy white lily-like flowers in fall and sometimes into winter. *Chorisia speciosa* is less hardy to frost but has spectacular pink blossoms in the fall.



82. Weeping Bottlebrush (*Callistemon viminalis*)
AGAINST SOUTH WALL OF ENGINEERING
A pendulous Australian tree, this is the largest of the bottlebrush family. The spring display of vibrant scarlet brushes can be very spectacular; the evergreen foliage is sometimes damaged by hard frost.



83. Texas Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa glandulosa*)
WEST OF THE STUDENT UNION
A deciduous mesquite with lacy foliage.



84. Willow Acacia (*Acacia salicina*)
FRONT OF THE STUDENT UNION
This thornless Acacia is a native to Australia and does quite well in the landscapes of southern Arizona. Despite being related to the local White-Thorn and Catclaw Acacias, this species produces the strap-shaped leaves common to the Australian Acacias.



85. London Plane Tree (*Platanus x acerifolia*)
IN THE STUDENT UNION 'CANYON'
This popular tree has a long history of landscaping use throughout the United States and Europe. Being a hybrid, it originated from a crossing of North American and European species of Sycamore. Its leaves bear a striking resemblance to Maple leaves, however the two are unrelated.



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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
Campus Arboretum



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http://arboretum.arizona.edu/tree_tours

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