

**1. Cedar of Lebanon, CEDRUS LIBANI (PINACEAE)**

Celebrated by religions, poets and historians, this tree is among the most renowned natural monuments in the universe. Egyptians used its resin to mummify their dead and called it the “life of death.”

**2. Clara Barton Dogwood, CORNUS KOUSA (CORNACEAE)**

Propagated from a tree outside the private office and home of American Red Cross founder Clara Barton in Glen Echo, Md, this tree is a flowering dogwood, known as a welcome sign of spring. **H**

**3. Hybrid London Planes, PLATANUS X HISPANICA (PLATANACEAE)**

Sometimes called a buttonwood tree or sycamore, this tree’s fruits — one-inch seed balls — appear in winter. The bark — a camouflage pattern of peeling patches— eventually turns a smooth white on mature trunks and branches.

**4. English Yew, TAXUS BACCATA (TAXACEAE)**

This small coniferous tree is slow growing and can be long-lived. Inconspicuous flowers appear in spring, followed by small, red fruits. Its needles, stems and seeds are poisonous to humans and livestock.

**5. Smoketree, COTINUS COGGYRIA (ANACARDIACEAE)**

This multi-stemmed small tree turns a smoky pink color June-August. In fall, its leaves turn from medium blue-green to yellow-red-purple.

**6. Chestnut Oak, QUERCUS MONTANA (FAGACEAE)**

A descendant of a tree at the Stratford plantation in Westmoreland County, Va., where Civil War general Robert E. Lee was born. **HN**

**7. Alaskan Cedar, CUPRESSUS NOOTKATENSIS (CUPRESSACEAE)**

The Nootka cypress is used extensively by the indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest Coast for boats, furniture and paneling.

**8. Black Oak, QUERCUS VELUTINA (FAGACEAE)**

At 125 feet, this black oak is the tallest tree on campus. This tree also is one of the tallest in the red oak family.

**9. Ginkgo, Ginkgo biloba (GINKGOACEAE)**

Considered one of the oldest trees in the world, the ginkgo is often called a “living fossil.” They were first planted in Kentucky by Henry Clay, a 19th century statesman who represented Kentucky in both the U.S. House and Senate.

**10. Willow Oak, Quercus phellos (FAGACEAE)**

This oak has willow-like leaves, light to bright green in summer turning to yellow, yellow-brown and russet in fall. **N**

**11. Weeping Beech, Fagus sylvatica (FAGACEAE)**

Its lustrous dark green leaves become copper-toned in the fall.

**12. Pin Oak, Quercus palustris (FAGACEAE)**

Pin oaks are mainly found in the eastern United States. Compared to other oaks which can live for several centuries, pin oaks are relatively short-lived, with a a maximum lifespan of 120 years. **N**

**13. Littleleaf Linden, TILIA CORDATA (TILIACEAE)**

This is a medium-sized tree, native to Europe. Bees find its highly fragrant flowers attractive.

**14. Tulip Tree, LIRIODENDRON TULIPIFERA (MAGNOLIACEA)**

More commonly known in Kentucky as the tulip poplar, it is the state’s official tree. It also is known as tulip tree magnolia, whitewood and canoe wood (in some areas) because Native Americans once fashioned dugout canoes from its trunk. The tulip poplar’s wood is a top choice of organ makers. **N**

**15. Chinese Elm (Lacebark), ULMUS PARVIFOLIA (ULMACEAE)**

This species of tree can be found on every continent except Antarctica. It has the hardest wood of any elm and is prized as an ornamental tree for its hardiness, bark pattern and coloration. This particular tree is believed to be a survivor of Fredrick Law Olmsted’s tree plan for the parkways connecting Louisville’s renowned Olmsted Parks.

**16. American Yellow Wood, CLADRASTRIS KENTUKEA (FABACEAE)**

Also known as the Kentucky Yellowwood, this tree is one of the rarest trees in the eastern United States and is primarily found on limestone cliffs in Kentucky, Tennessee and Arkansas. It is prized as an ornamental for its fragrant white flowers and bright green leaves. **N**

**17. Saucer Magnolia, MAGNOLIA X SOULANGEANA (MAGNOLIACEAE)**

This tree is a hybrid of the Yulan Magnolia and Japanese Magnolia. It is one of the most commonly used magnolias in horticulture, and produces white, pink, and purple flowers. Saucer Magnolias are intolerant of many urban pollutants, so they are usually planted with other trees or away from roads and factories.

**18. Eastern Redbuds, CERCIS CANADENSIS (FABACEAE)**

This tree is common along rural Kentucky roadsides and as an understory tree in native forests. In some parts of Appalachia, the tree is known as the spicewood because early settlers used green twigs from the branches to season wild game. The spring blooms appear in clusters on the bare stems and trunk of this tree before the leaves appear. **N**

**19. Bald Cypress, TAXODIUM DISTICHUM (CUPRESSAEAE)**

Although it looks like an evergreen, this tree is deciduous and drops its leaves in fall. The tree has “knees,” woody projections seen at the base of older trees, especially in or near water. These trees are found naturally in eastern Kentucky, and along the Mississippi River. At 75 feet tall, this bald cypress is the tallest conifer on campus. **N**

**20. White Oak, QUERCUS ALBA (FAGACEAE)**

This is the most valuable tree on campus and it also has the largest canopy. They commonly live two or three centuries, but can live significantly longer. **N**

**21. River Birches, BETULA NIGRA (BETULACEAE)**

Well-suited for river banks, this tree has found the next best thing on campus, the Cochran Fountain. River birch bark varies in color and exfoliates in curly, papery sheets. **N**

**22. Golden Sprite Smoke, COTINUS COGGYRIA ‘ANCOT’ (ANACARDIACEAE)**

The Golden Sprite Smoke tree is a deciduous, upright-growing shrub that can grow 8-15 feet tall and wide. Its leaves remain green and yellow throughout the summer months, but turn amber, burgundy, scarlet and green in the fall.

**23. Harpers Ferry Flowering Dogwoods, CORNUS FLORIDA (CORNACEAE)**

Three trees descended from a tree on the grounds of the United States Armory and Arsenal at Harpers Ferry. Abolitionist leader John Brown and his men raided the armory in 1859. **HN**

**24. Katsura tree, CERCIDIPHYLLUM JAPONICUM (CERCIDIPHYLLACEAE)**

In spring, its heart-shaped leaves emerge reddish-purple, changing to blue-green as they mature. In autumn, leaves change to a brilliant yellow, releasing a warm and spicy fragrance, reminiscent of cotton candy. This tree has the longest scientific name of any tree on campus.

**25. Japanese Maple, ACER PALMATUM (ACERACEAE)**

Its unique seven-palmed green or red colored leaf turns to a striking color, ranging from bright yellow through orange and red.

**26. White Ash, FRAXINUS AMERICANA (OLEACEAE)**

Native ash trees are endangered by the invasion of the emerald ash borer insect that has killed millions of the trees. **N**

**27. Shumard Oak, QUERCUS SHUMARDII (FAGACEAE)**

This is the oldest and heaviest tree on campus. It is estimated to be more than 200 years old. **N**

**28. Rutgers Hybrid Dogwood, CORNUS X RUTGERSENSIS (CORNACEAE)**

The newest dogwoods planted on campus are hybridized at Rutgers University to be more disease resistant.

**29. American Elm, ULMUS AMERICANA (ULMACEAE)**

A species devastated by Dutch elm disease in the last century. It is in front of the Overseers Honors House, a 130-year-old townhouse typical of Victorian Louisville. **N**

**30. Southern Magnolias, MAGNOLIA GRANDIFLORA (MAGNOLIACEAE)**

In late spring its huge, waxy, fragrant, white blossoms perfume the area.

**31. Dawn Redwood, METASEQUOIA GLYPTOSTROBOIDES (CUPRESSACEAE)**

The Dawn Redwood is a deciduous, coniferous tree that grows in a conical shape up to 100 feet tall. Foliage from the Dawn Redwood emerges light green in the spring, matures to deep green in summer and turns red-bronze in fall.

**32. Paperbark Maple, ACER GRISEUM (SAPINDACEAE)**

The Paperbark Maple is a small, deciduous tree with slender, upright branching. Bark on the trunk and limbs is very decorative because it peels into large curls which remain on the tree rather than falling to the ground.

**33. N Buckeye, AESCULUS GLABRA (SAPINDACEAE)**

Commonly called the Ohio Buckeye, this tree is native to the southern United States. This low-branched, small to medium sized deciduous tree typically grows 20-30 feet in height.

**34. Catalpa, CATALPA SPECIOSE (BIGNONIACEAE)**

The catalpa is a medium to large deciduous tree that typically grows 40-70 feet. The tree produces bell-shaped, orchid-like white flowers with purple and yellow inner spotting in late spring.

**35. Lions Head Japanese Maple, ACER PALMATUM ‘SHISHIGASHIRA’ (SAPINDACEAE)**

This tree, commonly called a Japanese maple, is a deciduous shrub or small tree that typically grows to 10-25 feet and is native to Korea, Japan and China. ‘Shishigashira’ means lion’s head, and this cultivar is sometimes commonly called lion’s head maple.

**36. Ivory Silk Lilac, SYRINGA RETICULATA (OLEACEAE)**

Also known as the Japanese Tree Lilac, the Syringa reticulata typically grows as a small tree or large shrub. It produces showy, creamy white flowers which bloom in late spring and early summer.

**37. Serviceberry, AMELANCHIER ARBOREA (ROSACEAE)**

The serviceberry is a deciduous, early-flowering small tree or large shrub that typically grows 15-25 feet tall. The slightly fragrant white flowers on the serviceberry appear before the leaves emerge in early spring. The flowers produce small green berries that turn red and finally dark purple in the summer.

**38. Smooth bark Pignut Hickory, CARYA GLABRA (JUGLANDACEAE)**

The pignut hickory is a medium to large deciduous tree that typically grows 50-80 feet in height. This tree is commonly referred to as a broom hickory because early U.S. settlers would split saplings to create brooms.

**39. Bigleaf Magnolia, MAGNOLIA MACROPHYLLA (MAGNOLIACEAE)**

The Bigleaf magnolia tree is native to the southeastern United States and has the largest simple leaves of any tree indigenous to North America. Fragrant, white, cup-shaped flowers bloom from the magnolia tree each May.

**40. Purple Fountain Beech, FAGUS SYLVATICA (FAGACEAE)**

This tree is native to central and southern Europe and was brought to America by European colonists in the 1700’s. While the tree on UofL’s campus is a purple fountain beech, there are a variety of different forms, leaf shapes and colors.

**Thank you to the student-led Engage, Lead, Serve Board (ELSB) for its collaboration on the tree tour. The ELSB enhances the UofL student experience by providing opportunities for community engagement, leadership and service.**



**Trees  
of interest**



# Branch out

Welcome to the University of Louisville's Belknap Campus. Although we're located in an urban area, our 309-acre, park-like campus has more than 1,100 trees representing many species. We invite you to take this self-guided tour to see some of the more significant and interesting among them.

Not a tree expert? No worries. Identification plaques will help you identify the trees. The full tour will take about an hour and a half, approximately a 1.75 mile walk.

## Where to start

To check out our bark, here's where to park:  
North Information Center  
2000 S. First Street, Louisville, KY.

You can begin the tour outside the center.



# The root of the matter

Trees bring natural beauty to our campus and play an essential role in UofL's initiatives to create a sustainable campus environment.

- A mature leafy tree produces as much oxygen in a season as 10 people inhale in a year.
- Trees clean the air by filtering pollution and acting as enormous carbon sinks.
- Trees clean the soil by absorbing dangerous chemicals and other pollutants. They reduce "greenhouse" gases that contribute to global climate change.
- Trees control noise pollution by muffling urban noise.
- Trees slow storm-water runoff by capturing rain water and binding the soil, reducing flash flooding and recharging underground aquifers.
- Trees provide shade in the summer and break the force of winter winds. They cut costs and energy consumed by heating and cooling buildings.
- Trees harbor birds and other wildlife, including UofL's famed white squirrels, making our urban centers a more pleasant place to live.

UofL is committed to maintaining campus as a green oasis in an urban setting. We are proud of our designation as a "Tree Campus USA" by the national Arbor Day Foundation.