

Trees of Interest at Lincoln Park Zoo



1. American Elm

Ulmus americana

Native to central and eastern North America

This large tree was once popular for landscaping parks and streets until Dutch elm disease nearly destroyed the North American population. Since the discovery of disease-resistant individuals, American elms have slowly returned to the landscape.



2. Flowering Dogwood

Cornus florida

Native to eastern North America

Before producing leaves in early spring, the flowering dogwood is distinguishable by the white or pink bracts that form cones around its small clusters of yellow flowers. This tree has very dense wood that has been used to make tools and golf clubs.



3. Thornless Honey Locust

Gleditsia triacanthos var. *inermis*

Native to central North America

The thornless honey locust's leaves are pinnately compound, meaning that small leaflets form rows on either side of the leaf stem. In the fall, its leaves turn golden yellow.



4. Horse Chestnut

Aesculus hippocastanum

Native to southeastern Europe

The horse chestnut's leaves are palmately compound, meaning that its large leaflets sprout from one central point like fingers. In late spring, it blooms upright clusters of white flowers.



5. River Birch

Betula nigra

Native to eastern North America

River birch grows well in moist locales, and its peeling, salmon-colored bark provides habitat for insects and foraging birds.



6. White Fir

Abies concolor

Native to western North America

This evergreen tree has bluish needles and is sometimes used as a holiday tree.



7. Redbud

Cercis canadensis

Native to eastern North America

A popular landscaping tree, redbud blooms pink flowers in early spring before producing its iconic heart-shaped leaves.



8. Golden Rain Tree

Koelreuteria paniculata

Native to eastern Asia

In July, small yellow flowers form clusters on the golden rain tree's branch tips, but in fall, they turn into papery seed capsules that remain through winter. This tree's leaves appear lacy.



9. Eastern White Pine

Pinus strobus

Native to eastern North America

This evergreen tree can grow to an enormous size and, as a useful source of lumber, was heavily logged by early European settlers. The eastern white pine is distinguishable by its large needles, which always grow in groups of five.

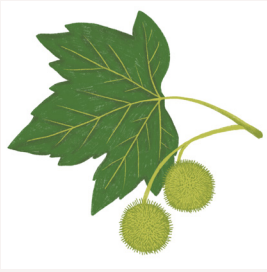


10. Eastern Hemlock

Tsuga canadensis

Native to northeastern North America

This graceful evergreen tree with small needles and cones is under threat in the wild from an invasive pest: the hemlock woolly adelgid.

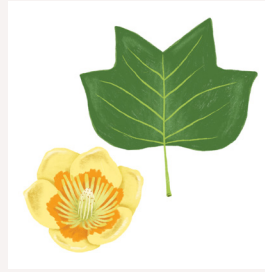


11. London Plane Tree

Platanus × acerifolia

From cultivation

This tree is a hybrid between the North American and Asian sycamores that first occurred when the two species were sharing a garden in London. Its cream- and silver-colored bark starts smooth but flakes away as the tree ages.



16. Tulip Poplar

Liriodendron tulipifera

Native to eastern North America

In May and June, this tree blooms yellow tulip-shaped flowers marked with an orange band. In the fall, its leaves turn golden yellow.



12. Weeping purple European Beech

Fagus sylvatica 'Purple Fountain'

From cultivation

A weeping form of the European beech, this tree has dramatic, dark purple foliage. The seeds produced by beech trees are called beechnuts and are a key food source for wildlife.



17. Katsura Tree

Cercidiphyllum japonicum

Native to eastern Asia

The katsura tree's heart-shaped, cascading leaves have a bluish tint through summer but turn yellow to apricot in the fall. Sometimes, it emits a sweet fragrance similar to cotton candy.



13. Freeman Maple

Acer × freemanii

Native to eastern North America

This naturally occurring hybrid of red and silver maple has bright orange leaves in the fall. It is popular for landscaping parks and streets.



18. Bur Oak

Quercus macrocarpa

Native to central and northern North America

This long-living and majestic oak, which thrives in prairies, has broad-spreading branches and develops thick bark tolerant of once-common prairie fires. Its memorable, large acorns have a fringed cup.



14. Bald Cypress

Taxodium distichum

Native to southeastern North America.

The bald cypress is a deciduous conifer, meaning it drops its needles in the fall. It's also known for developing cypress knees, or knobby root appendages, when growing in wet soil.



19. Ginkgo

Ginkgo biloba

Native to East Asia

Ginkgo, distinguishable by their iconic leaves that turn gold in the fall, are sometimes called "living fossils" because they evolved before dinosaurs and have changed little in the past 270 million years. This species covered North America and Europe, as well, until the last ice age.



15. Cottonwood

Populus deltoides

Native to central and eastern North America

Tall and fast growing, cottonwoods are poplars that thrive in wet lowlands and near bodies of water.



20. Prairiefire Flowering Crabapple

Malus 'Prairifire'

From cultivation

The prairiefire flowering crabapple sets itself apart from other crabapples with its magenta spring flowers, purple foliage, and small red fruit that grows in the fall. This cultivar is a complex hybrid introduced by the University of Illinois.

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