

Bare is Beautiful

Winter Interest Tree Tour



***Trees will be numbered on site from Nov 16th to Nov 30th 2009**

The tour begins at the southwest entrance of the Harper Center, which is surrounded by the first species:

1. **Serviceberry (*Amelanchier x grandiflora*)-Native; orange to red fall color; smooth, gray bark**

As Serviceberry matures the bark stays smooth, developing a striped appearance as the bark splits instead of becoming shaggy or furrowed.

If you look southwest towards Ahmanson Law School you will see two of the largest trees on campus:

2. **American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)-Native, white to cream defoliating bark**

Near the northwest corner of the Harper Center you can see two examples of how the form and branch structure of a bare tree can provide interest in winter:

3. **Sargent Crabapple (*Malus sargentii*)-mounded, dense-branching, can spread twice as wide as tall**
4. **'Coralburst' Crabapple (*Malus*)-dainty, rounded, lollipop-like**

You will see the following species in the lawn area southwest of Davis Square:

5. **Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)-Native; warty, gray bark**
6. **Swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*) - coarse texture and shaggy bark, leaves become russet-colored and papery in fall. Many Oaks retain their leaves into winter.**

On the Webster Mall between Davis and Harper you will see a species that is new to campus:

7. **London Planetree (*Platanus x acerifolia*)-cream to olive-colored defoliating bark**

While many prefer the whiter bark of the native Sycamore, London Planetree is the preferred landscape species in our area because of its superior disease resistance.

As you look across 20th Street towards the Ryan Center you will see the newest section of the Webster Street pedestrian mall. There are plans to plant the area densely with trees, many of which will be new species on campus such as Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*) and columnar Ginkgo.

As you walk down 20th Street on the east side of the Harper Center, you will see a shrub that has much to offer in winter:

8. Firethorn (*Pyracantha coccinea*)-semi-evergreen; profuse, orange-red, persistent fruit.

Across 20th Street in the lawn area south of Opus Hall you will find:

9. Prairifire Crabapple (*Malus*)-glossy red-brown bark with prominent lenticels, persistent red fruit, orange-red fall color.
10. River birch (*Betula nigra*)-defoliating, papery bark, semi-weeping habit, yellow fall color

The bark effect is not very pronounced on these young trees, but more mature specimens of River Birch can be seen along the pedestrian mall between the Lied Center and McGloin Hall.

To the south and east on Vanteicher Mall you will find an interesting semi-evergreen shrub:

11. Manhattan Euonymus (*Euonymus kiautschovicus* 'Manhattan')

Walk south on 19th Street to see a rather unusual small tree and another great winter species east of Campion House:

12. Goldenrain tree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*)-papery, lantern-like seed capsules; flowers in June and July
13. 'Winter King' Hawthorn (*Crataegus viridis* 'Winter King')-persistent red fruit; orange-red fall color; grayish, papery bark; horizontally spreading branches

Continue the tour by walking west to 20th Street then north to the California Mall. As you walk back toward the southwest entrance of the Harper Center you will see the last tree on the tour:

14. White Mulberry (*Morus alba*)-cinnamon-colored bark

One of two finalists for the Arbor Day 2009 **CAMPUS TREE OF THE YEAR AWARD**, this particular Mulberry has a unique form with multiple, leaning, intertwined stems and a broadly-horizontal spread. In their nomination emails people said, "...it looks like a tree to sit under from a children's book" and "I believe it signifies adaptation". One faculty member dubbed it "the yoga tree". Watch Creighton Today for your chance to participate in the second annual **CAMPUS TREE OF THE YEAR AWARD** in April 2010.