

GUIDED TOUR

MYRIAD BOTANICAL GARDENS

December, 2023 “**Evergreen Plants**”



Common Name: Arizona Blue Cypress

Botanical Name: *Cupressus arizonica* 'Blue Pyramid'

Arizona cypress is the only cypress native to the southwest. It is a fast growing conifer, quickly reaching 60 feet tall and 20 feet wide. Valued for its dense, upright form and blue-green foliage, Arizona cypress makes a nice addition to any landscape. It is found naturally on dry, rocky mountain slopes. Therefore, it is very drought tolerant and will respond well to minimal irrigation.



Common Name: Donkeytail Spurge

Botanical Name: *Euphorbia myrsinites*

Creeping spurge, or donkeytail spurge, is a dependable evergreen perennial with multiple seasons of interest. Its fleshy, succulent leaves spiral around the stem and remain blue-green all year long. Yellow-green flowers appear in mid spring and fade away by summer. This spurge stays under eight inches in height and spreads one foot. Tolerant of heat, drought and bad soil, it makes an excellent rock garden plant.



Common Name: Eastern Red Cedar Cultivar

Botanical Name: *Juniperus virginiana* 'Grey Owl'

This eastern red cedar cultivar is a broad, slow-growing, evergreen shrub with a compact, wide-spreading habit. The dimensions of 'Grey Owl' are around three feet tall and six feet wide. It features scale-like, silver gray foliage. This is a female form which produces glaucous, berry-like cones which are attractive to birds. It's easily grown in average, medium, well-drained soil in full sun, though it's tolerant of a wide variety of soils. It's also tolerant of wind and of many city air pollutants.



Common Name: Weeping Blue Atlas Cedar

Botanical Name: *Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauca Pendula'

The common name Atlas Cedar comes from the plants native region of the Atlas Mountains in northern Africa. Needle color varies in the wild, but this cultivar has a distinct blue-gray color. The bronze-brown cones contrast dramatically with the color of the foliage. In cultivation, the final height and form of the tree greatly depends on training the central leading stem. If left unsupported, the central leader will immediately defer to cascading. Therefore, it is grown on a support until the desired height is reached. Each one of these trees will mature into a spectacular specimen and conversation piece with its own unique form.



Common Name: Chinese Juniper

Botanical Name: *Juniperus x pfitzeriana* 'Saybrook Gold'

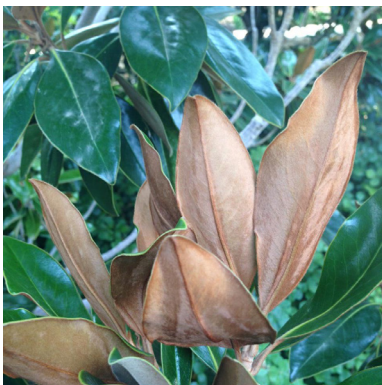
'Saybrook Gold' juniper is an excellent yellow to bronzish-yellow evergreen that can provide a shot of color in the winter months. It grows four to five feet tall and five to six feet wide and prefers full sun and well-drained soils. 'Saybrook Gold' is a tough plant that can tolerate a wide variety of soils, drought, erosion and air pollution.



Common Name: Sweet Bay Magnolia

Botanical Name: *Magnolia virginiana*

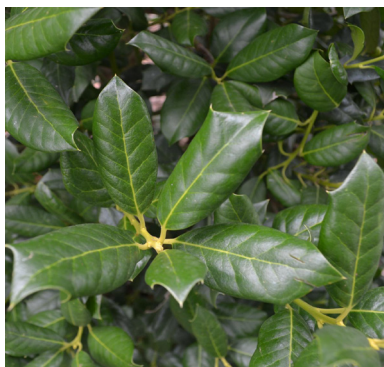
This magnolia is native to the eastern United States. Its flowers appear sporadically throughout the summer and are not as large as the more popular southern magnolia, but are still just as fragrant. The foliage and twigs have a bayberry scent. Besides the flowers, the leaves are also ornamental, with a silvery under color. Sweet bay magnolias are semi-evergreen depending on the severity of the winter.



Common Name: Southern Magnolia

Botanical Name: *Magnolia grandiflora* 'Little Gem'

'Little Gem' magnolia is a dwarf version of the much larger southern magnolia. It is an evergreen tree that grows to 15 to 20 feet tall with a spread of 7 to 10 feet. It is best grown in organically-rich, well drained soils in full to part sun. It is appreciated for its dark green leaves with their gray-brown undersides that provide year-round color. It is most prized for its fragrant, showy white flowers in the summer.



Common Name: Holly

Botanical Name: *Ilex* x 'Nellie R. Stevens'

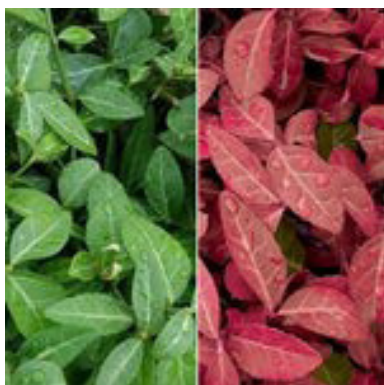
'Nellie R. Stevens' is a hybrid holly. It typically grows as a large broadleaf evergreen shrub with a dense, conical form, but can be pruned and trained in a variety of forms. Oblong, glossy, dark green leaves have spiny margins. Small greenish-white flowers appear in spring, but are generally inconspicuous. Flowers give way to often abundant amounts of berry-like bright red fruit, which ripen in fall and persist into winter. Prune in winter if needed. 'Nellie R. Stevens' can bear some fruit without fertilization from a male pollinator because it is parthenocarpic.



Common Name: Red Yucca

Botanical Name: *Hesperaloe parviflora*

The red yucca has proven to be an excellent performer in the driest landscapes. This Texas native provides interest year-round in the garden. The leathery gray-green leaves grow in 2-foot tall clumps and are evergreen in Oklahoma winters. In early summer, 3-foot tall stalks of pink flowers appear and provide months of interest. The flowers are followed by interesting onion-shaped seed pods that are about the size of walnuts.



Common Name: Purple Wintercreeper

Botanical Name: *Euonymus fortunei* 'Coloratus'

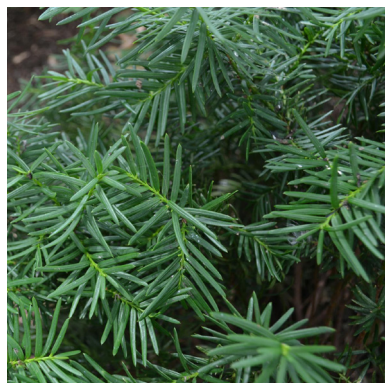
'Coloratus' is widely used as a ground cover in commercial landscapes. It grows well in both full sun and shade. Wintercreeper tolerates a wide range of soil conditions, except for wet ones, and spreads rapidly by creeping stems. It has good tolerance for harsh urban conditions. It features lustrous dark green leaves (1-2" long) which turn dark purple in fall and winter. Keep this groundcover contained and tidy by trimming the edges and top with a weed eater two to three times during the summer.



Common Name: Beaked Yucca

Botanical Name: *Yucca rostrata* 'Sapphire Skies'

This beaked yucca is native to southwest Texas and northern Mexico. The foliage grows in a distinctly globe-shaped form on top of a trunk that can reach over ten feet in height. Each leaf has a stiff spine on the tip that gives it its common name. Mature plants will have a stalk of white flowers emerge in late spring. 'Sapphire Skies' has a notable silvery-blue tone to the leaves. Take care to plant this yucca out of direct foot traffic to avoid inevitable pokes and punctures.



Common Name: Dense Spreading Yew

Botanical Name: *Taxus x media* 'Densiformis'

Yew is a classic shrub for formal hedges. This hybrid has its origin in a cross of English and Japanese species, and that has made it more winter hardy. The main culprit of demise for this shrub in Oklahoma is extreme heat, making afternoon shade essential. 'Densiformis' is smaller than some other varieties, it will grow in an irregular spreading mound of four feet tall by seven feet wide. Yew is a dioecious plant, and this cultivar is exclusively female. So it will only produce its red berry-like cones, called an aril, when male plants are nearby.



Common Name: Yaupon Holly

Botanical Name: *Ilex vomitoria* 'Nana'

This evergreen shrub is the dwarf cultivar of the much larger yaupon holly; it will stay under five feet in all its dimensions. It's common to find this shrub trimmed into hedges or shaped into topiary spheres in the landscape. The small white flowers in the spring are somewhat striking. The red drupe berries that are common with Yaupon Holly are not as noticeable with this dwarf cultivar. The berries will stay on during the winter, attracting birds and other wildlife as a food source.

Notes:

Myriad Botanical Gardens Guided Tours are every second Friday, 1pm and 10am, last Saturday monthly,.