

GUIDED TOUR

MYRIAD BOTANICAL GARDENS

January, 2024 “**Winter Interest**”



Common Name: Hornbeam

Botanical Name: *Carpinus betulus*

The hornbeam is a European native tree that grows up to 60 feet with a rounded, pyramid shaped crown. The spring flowers appear before the foliage emerges and have a lovely chartreuse and yellow color. The female flowers mature and have distinct bracts that hang down. Autumn foliage is inconsistent but can be yellow to orange. The bark provides winter interest. The trunk has a distinct sinewy, or muscle-like, look with smooth fluting. Sometimes called ironwood, this tree has very dense and hard wood.



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: Sideoats Grass

Botanical Name: *Bouteloua curtipendula*

This grass is native to most of North America, and is able to thrive in the driest garden situations you can think of. Sideoats grama grows to a very manageable height of two to three feet and stays in tidy clumps. Because of its small, neat dimensions, it's easy to interplant among nearly any perennial flowers in your garden to add a soft cloud of texture. Its airy inflorescence appears in mid-summer. The younger flowers have a tinge of purple with little bits of orange. The individual flowers dangle all on one side of the stem.



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: Horsetail

Botanical Name: *Equisetum hyemale*

Most commonly known as horsetail, this is a very primitive perennial plant with dark-green hollow, jointed or segmented stems with no true leaves. Stems can be found as either singular or have whorls of branches. However, only the single stems produce the cone-shaped spore producing body at the tip. Horsetail is normally found in either standing water, or wet areas. The stems actually contain silicon crystals (i.e. sand) embedded in its tissue. This particularly trait gives it a common name of "scouring rush".



Common Name: Switchgrass

Botanical Name: *Panicum virgatum* 'Northwind'

'Northwind' is a tall ornamental switch grass cultivar. It forms a compact, narrow, erect, 4-5' tall clump of foliage which is topped in late summer by finely-textured, yellow flower panicles which hover over the foliage like an airy cloud. Flower panicles typically bring total plant height to 6'. Panicles turn beige as the seeds mature in fall with the seed plumes persisting well into winter. Foliage turns yellow-beige in fall and provides good winter interest.



Common Name: Contorted Filbert

Botanical Name: *Corylus avellana* 'Contorta'

This is considered a deciduous shrub that grows to 8' in both height and width. The most popular feature of this plant is its twisted, spiraling branches and showy male catkins that hang from the dormant branches during the winter months. Common names for it include: Corkscrew Hazel and Harry Lauder's walking stick. It tends to sucker, so be sure to check the base periodically and prune any that come up.



Common Name: Winter Jasmine

Botanical Name: *Jasminum nudiflorum*

An Asian native, winter jasmine brings a lot to the garden including winter interest, evergreen stems and erosion control. The small, interestingly-lobed leaves are deciduous, but the slender green stems provide winter interest as they creep and arch. Bright yellow flowers erupt from the shrub in late winter. When planted on a hillside, winter jasmine will help with erosion control.



Common Name: Staghorn Sumac

Botanical Name: *Rhus typhina* Tiger Eyes®

This is a dwarf, golden-leaved, staghorn sumac cultivar that typically matures to only 6' tall and as wide. Because of its dwarf size, quality foliage, and minimal suckering, this sumac is said to be superior compared to others. Its leaves emerge chartreuse in spring, but quickly mature to a bright yellow. In the fall, the foliage takes on some striking orange and scarlet tones. Foliage contrasts well with the purplish branches and stems.



Common Name: Coneflower

Botanical Name: *Rudbeckia nitida* 'Herbstonne'

This conflower variety is large and upright, typically growing four to seven feet tall in ideal conditions. The large yellow petals hang down around the elongated green cones in the centers. Bloom time is long and can last from mid-June into August. They're also a pollinator favorite and food source for birds, but are unbothered by rabbits, deer and most other pests.



Common Name: Yarrow

Botanical Name: *Achillea* x 'Moonshine'

'Moonshine' (*A. clypeolata* x *A. 'Taygetea'*) is an upright, clump-forming, compact hybrid yarrow which is noted for its deeply-dissected, fern-like, aromatic, silvery to gray-green foliage and its tiny, long-lasting, bright lemon-yellow flowers which appear in dense, flattened, compound corymbs (to 2-3" across) throughout the summer on stiff, erect stems typically rising 1-2' tall. This plant resembles *A. 'Coronation Gold'* except it is much smaller and the flowers are a lighter yellow.



Common Name: Grassy-leaved Sweet Flag

Botanical Name: *Acorus gramineus* 'Ogon'

This Sweet Flag is easily grown in full sun to part shade, wet/ boggy soils to well drained soils, hot and humid to cold and icy conditions. An herbaceous perennial growing roughly one foot tall, Sweet flag is semi evergreen in Oklahoma. This low maintenance and low growing sedge is colorful year round, great for borders and erosion control. Aptly named "Sweet Flag" because the leaves produce and release a sweet fragrance when crushed.



Common Name: Chinese Pistache

Botanical Name: *Pistacia chinensis*

The Chinese pistache is a no-fuss shade tree with lots of appeal. It is meek and misshapen in its adolescence, earning it the colloquial name "ugly duckling," but grows into a beautiful adult specimen 20 to 40 feet tall. The small round fruit turn purple-red in fall while the pinnate leaves turn shades of yellow, orange and red. The Chinese pistache is tolerant of poor soils and withstands harsh conditions, making it an excellent tree for urban areas.



Common Name: Yellowtwig Dogwood

Botanical Name: *Cornus alba* Winter Canary®

Yellowtwig dogwood is a deciduous shrub growing five to ten feet tall and wide. With plenty of sun and good drainage, the plants will thrive and grow brilliant yellow stem providing particular winter interest. Dogwoods do tend to spread vigorously with maturity, so remove suckers promptly if spreading is not desired. In our garden, we choose to remove up to one-third of the oldest stems in early spring to stimulate new growth for the upcoming season.

Notes:

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



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