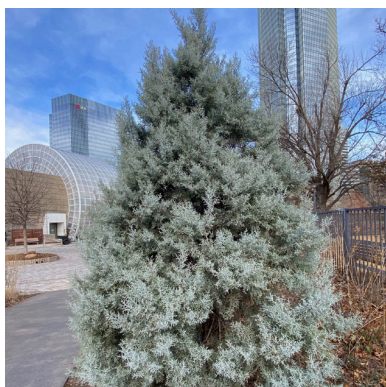


GUIDED TOUR

MYRIAD BOTANICAL GARDENS

January, 2023 **Mid-Winter Interest in the Garden**



Common Name: Arizona Blue Cypress

Botanical Name: *Cupressus arizonica* 'Blue Pyramid'

Arizona cypress is the only cypress native to the southwest. It is a medium-sized evergreen tree growing to 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: Adam's Needle

Botanical Name: *Yucca filamentosa* 'Color Guard'

Yucca, or Adam's needle, is an essentially stemless evergreen with whorls of lance-shaped leaves. The cultivar 'Color Guard' is known for having yellow-variegated leaves. It grows 2 to 3 feet tall and wide and in late spring sends up a flowering stalk that is up to 6 feet tall. Its bell-shaped creamy-white flowers have a light fragrance. This tough plant is resistant to drought, erosion, rabbit and deer and provides winter color.



Common Name: Mexican Feather Grass

Botanical Name: *Nassella tenuissima*

The thread-like foliage and feathery golden blooms of Mexican feather grass billow and sway gracefully in even the slightest breeze. It may look delicate, but this grass is tough and requires very little water once established. It is especially beautiful when planted in large groupings.



Common Name: Maiden Hair Grass

Botanical Name: *Miscanthus sinensis*

Maidenhair grass is an arching, fine-textured grass that forms dense, green clumps. The slender leaves spreading out and up like a fountain. During the late summer and fall pink flowers form. These flowers are popular for drying and creating dyes. Their pinkish or silvery plumes persist into the winter. Foliage is flexible and blows easily in the wind. This shrub-like grass turns to a rich gold in the fall, which lasts through the winter.



Common Name: Blue Grama Grass

Botanical Name: *Bouteloua gracilis* 'Blond Ambition'

Blue grama, an Oklahoma native plant, is an easy to grow, small ornamental grass. 'Blonde Ambition' stays a very tame two and a half foot high with a one and a half foot spread. It bears a multitude of flowers that resemble little combs that persist from late summer through the winter, providing cool-season interest. This cultivar has proven to be very cold-hardy and is certain to return each year in central Oklahoma.



Common Name: Red Twig Dogwood

Botanical Name: *Cornus sericea* 'Allemands'

Red twig dogwoods should not be confused with tree-type dogwoods that have large showy flowers; they are a shrub in the same genus and offer several seasons of interest in the garden. Tiny, fragrant, white flowers appear in late spring. The flowers give way to clusters of white berries in summer. This fruit is quite attractive to birds and other wildlife and doesn't stay on the shrub long. The most striking feature of this shrub is its bright red stems in the winter. To get the most intense stem color, always prune the largest and oldest stems each year in late winter. These colorful stems are handy to decorate in winter containers, flower arrangements and other crafts.



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. The young leaves are purple, adding more springtime interest. Common names for it include: Corkscrew Hazel and Harry Lauder's walking stick. Nearly all contorted filberts will be produced by grafting stems to a species' root stock. So be sure to prune the stems that grow from the ground; they will not have the characteristic twist of this cultivar and will grow noticeably straighter.



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.



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: Staghorn Sumac

Botanical Name: *Rhus typhina* 'Bailtiger' 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: Wintercreeper

Botanical Name: *Euonymus fortunei* 'Moonshadow'

This evergreen groundcover is a compact variety featuring strong variegation. Deep emerald green leaves with a bright yellow patch in the center make striking contrasts that let this plant stand out in the winter landscape. In the winter stems can turn a pinkish red, making a nice complement to the foliage and further adding to the winter interest. Plants have a medium growth rate and can be trimmed to form a dense ground cover.



Common Name: Frostweed

Botanical Name: *Verbesina virginica*

Frostweed is a native wild flower that blooms in very late summer and early fall, just in time to provide a nectar source for migrating monarch butterflies. Its white flowers are also highly attractive to bees and other pollinators. They can grow from 3 to 6 feet high and have interesting "wings" all along the stems. The most curious and fantastic show from these plants occurs in the winter when they are dormant and not even growing. When night temperatures are below freezing, the base of the stems will start to "grow" ribbons of ice that melt in the morning sun light. So be sure to get up early and look for these fleeting frost flowers.

Notes:

Myriad Guided Tours are at 10AM, last Saturday of the month. Please check our web calendar or social media for additional tour dates and times.