

I ILLINOIS

Quad Tree Walk

Let us introduce you to some of the amazing trees in the heart of the University of Illinois' campus. This map will highlight notable specimens while you weave through natural beauty and historic buildings. The walk begins southeast of Alma Mater, on Green Street, and proceeds in a counter-clockwise direction. For more information on local trees, visit go.illinois.edu/trees.

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| 1. Douglas-fir | 11. Kentucky coffeetree |
| 2. Eastern white pine | 12. Saucer magnolia |
| 3. Chestnut oak | 13. Eastern redbud |
| 4. Paperbark maple | 14. Ginkgo |
| 5. Honey locust | 15. Baldcypress |
| 6. Hawthorn spp. | 16. Bur oak |
| 7. American sycamore | 17. Sugar maple |
| 8. London planetree | 18. River birch |
| 9. White oak | 19. Flowering crapapple |
| 10. Shagbark hickory | 20. American beech |



Since 2015, Illinois has been recognized as a Tree Campus USA. The large and diverse collection of trees on campus is a valuable resource to Illinois. Not only do these trees make the campus beautiful, they provide many other benefits to the community and environment. An urban forest improves air quality, provides a shady place to study, sequesters carbon from the atmosphere, and creates habitat for diverse species. On the reverse of this page, you will find a selection of twenty trees that have been chosen for their interesting appearances, historical significance, unusual botany, or important economic uses. Many of the trees listed are Illinois native species, meaning they grew naturally in Illinois prior to human settlement, and are especially well-suited to this area. We encourage you to learn about each tree on your walk and gain a deeper appreciation for our campus trees.



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1. Douglas-fir *Pseudotsuga menziesii*

The Douglas-fir is a conifer which produces seed-containing cones instead of flowers. Most conifers, including this one, are evergreens. The genus name *Pseudotsuga* means “false hemlock”, referring to another similar-looking species. There is a true hemlock located near this stand of Douglas-fir, can you spot it?

2. Eastern white pine *Pinus strobus*

The eastern white pine, a conifer, has wood that is easily workable and commonly used in homes. It is usually planted in reforestation efforts in mining areas because it is fast growing and can withstand highly acidic soils. In optimal conditions, this pine can grow up to 80 feet tall.

3. Chestnut oak *Quercus prinus*

Chestnut oak is native to the hilly forests of southern Illinois. It is named for the shape of its leaves, which more closely resemble those of the chestnut tree than other oaks. This tree has attractive, glossy leaves and is prized for its beautiful silvery bark.

4. Paperbark maple *Acer griseum*

The paperbark maple has reddish brown bark that is ephemeral, meaning that it curls and peels off regularly. The leaves of this species are unlike those of other maples — they consist of three bluntly toothed leaflets. In the fall, the leaves turn brilliantly red.

5. Honey locust *Gleditsia triacanthos-ternis*

The honey locust belongs to the pea family, it produces large pods that contain a sweet, honey-like pulp. The pods are an important food source for many wild animals including deer, birds, rabbits, squirrels, and opossums. The pods are also being studied as a potential biofuel source.

6. Hawthorn spp. *Crataegus*

The hawthorn belongs to the rose family, *rosaceae*. In the fall, it produces small, bright red fruits. The leaves and fruit of this tree are sometimes used as an herbal medicine to treat a variety of illnesses, including heart disease and digestive problems, as well as applied topically for frost bite and other skin injuries.

7. American sycamore *Platanus occidentalis*

These trees produce unusual, spiny seed balls that remain on the tree throughout the winter. When sycamore trees reach maturity, their bark becomes distinctively smooth and white. Many people believe this sycamore is the oldest tree on the University of Illinois campus.

8. London planetree *Platanus x. acerifolia*

This species occurred as a spontaneous hybrid between the Oriental sycamore and American sycamore. This tree is ideal for urban settings because of its shallow root system, ability to thrive in compact soils, and it can handle high levels of pollutants.

9. White oak *Quercus alba*

The white oak is the official state tree of Illinois. It can be found in every county in the state. The white oak is named for the smooth, white patches left behind when bark is removed by the harmless fungi *Aleurodiscus oakesii*.

10. Shagbark hickory *Carya ovata*

The peeling, shaggy bark of this hickory is unique and makes this species easily identifiable. Its wood is desirable for its strong and pleasant aroma and is often used to smoke meats and other foods. This tree also produces an edible nut, which Native Americans collected and stored in huge quantities to use as a staple of their diet.

Denotes a tree species native to Illinois.



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11. Kentucky coffeetree *Gymnocladus dioica*

Years ago, a much larger Kentucky coffeetree stood in its place—until it was struck by lightning! Because of the damage, it began to die. Before the tree was removed, branch cuttings were collected from it and used to propagate new seedlings that would be genetically identical. The tree you are looking at is a genetic clone of the original specimen.

12. Saucer magnolia *Magnolia x soulangeana*

This magnolia has large, furry buds that open in early spring to display beautiful blooms in white and pink that can grow up to ten inches across. The branches of this magnolia make excellent nesting sites for wild birds and squirrels. Are there any nests in these trees?

13. Eastern redbud *Cercis canadensis*

The eastern redbud is a small tree in the pea family recognized by the bright pinkish-purple flowers it produces each spring. The individual flowers are quite small, but they grow in eye-catching bunches along the branches which highlights the architecture of these trees. The leaves of the redbud are heart-shaped.

14. Ginkgo *Ginkgo biloba*

Ginkgo biloba is the last remaining species in the genus Ginkgophyta, which appeared in the fossil record over 270 million years ago. For many years, the ginkgo tree was thought to be extinct too. However, a single remaining tree was discovered at a Buddhist monastery from which the entire species was revived.

15. Baldcypress *Taxodium distichum*

Although the baldcypress has needle-like leaves and seed-bearing cones, it is not an evergreen like most other conifers. In the fall, the needles turn orange or red and drop to the ground. This tree is one of the longest living organisms—the oldest known specimen is currently over 1,620 years old.

16. Bur oak *Quercus macrocarpa*

The bur oak is named for the unusual, fringed overcup that covers the acorns. See if you can find one on the ground! The deeply ridged bark is very thick, which helps to protect this tree from prairie fires in the native Illinois savanna ecosystem.

17. Sugar maple *Acer saccharum*

In the fall, the sugar maple displays beautiful deep red and orange leaves. Sugar maple grows quickly and are one of the most common species in Midwestern deciduous forests. Sugar maple is particularly important in Canada, as it's one of their main sources of sap for maple syrup.

18. River birch *Betula nigra*

These young river birch have several layers of papery, peeling bark. As they mature, the papery bark will be replaced by more solid, white scales. River birch thrives in the wet and nutrient-rich soil along rivers. River birch is a 'pioneer' species, meaning it tends to be one of the first species to establish in an area, usually after flooding events.

19. Flowering crabapple *Malus floribunda*

The Japanese flowering crabapple grows as a round-headed tree with narrow leaves and beautiful arching branches. It's well known for its flowers, which are white or pale pink with red buds. It also grows tiny fruits that are red and yellow. In spring, our campus is adorned in a bounty of blooms from magnolias, redbuds, and these flowering crabapples.

20. American beech *Fagus grandifolia*

The American beech has distinctly smooth, silvery bark. Due to the hardness and density of the bark, these trees were generally left uncut until the invention of power tools in the 20th century. These strong trees are shade-tolerant and are often found in very old forests in the latest stages of succession.