Central Campus Tree Walk

This walk begins and ends by the Oviatt Library, traversing the campus center. You will walk past the Matador Statue, our University’s mascot, as well as Matador Square. The walk is 0.57 miles long. For more information on the trees in this brochure and a glossary of terms, scan the QR code below.

**Water requirements:**
- Low
- Medium
- High

The California Sycamore has a stout trunk with mottled-white bark and can grow to 75 ft tall. The leaves are 5-10” long and deep palmately lobed (3-5). It is an important tree for hummingbirds, butterflies and the Western Swallowtail. It is only drought tolerant once established and where there is a high water table, or along the coast.

**Oviatt Library**

**Matador Statue**

Native to eastern and central China, this large, moderate to rapidly growing tree has a broad, round appearance. It can grow up to 60 ft tall and equally wide. Its foliage consists of simple, alternately arranged leaves of dark-green color, which can be lobed or ovate. Though most cultivars are fruitless, the fruit is edible and is used in jams and pies.

**Platanus racemosa:** California Sycamore

The fast-growing, deciduous Sweetgum is native to the US, Mexico and as far south as Nicaragua. The simple leaves are glossy-green, with 5 deep lobes resembling a star shape. In fall, the foliage turns red and purple, even without cold temperatures. The tree is regarded for its ability to fix nitrogen in the soil, provide shade and resist insect attacks.

**Liquidambar styraciflua:** Sweetgum

The deciduous Crape Myrtle, native to India, Southeast Asia, northern Australia and parts of Oceania, grows 10-20 ft in height. The alternate, elliptical to rounded leaves are up to 2.75” long. The young leaves in spring are reddish and the smooth bark comes off in big flakes. Its crimped petals are intense pink to red and bloom from mid-summer to early fall.

**Lagerstroemia indica ‘Rubra’:** Red Crape Myrtle

Native to southeast Asia, the Dwarf Orchid is deciduous and grows 6-8 ft tall. The leaves are 4” long, broad & bi-lobed, resembling the hoof of a cow. The large, white, fragrant flowers, appear at the edges of the branches, have 5 petals, 10 yellow-tipped stamens, and a green stigma. Traditional medicine used the bark, leaves, flowers, and roots to treat a variety of illnesses.

**Bauhinia acuminata:** Dwarf Orchid Tree

The evergreen Banana Shrub is native to Southeast Asia and India. It has a smooth bark and bright-green, glossy leaves with prominent veins, wavy edges and a finely pointed apex. The heavily scented flowers have 10-20 yellow, orange or cream-colored tepals. The tree was traditionally used to make fragrant hair and massage oils.

**Michelia champaca:** Banana Shrub

Native to the Canary Islands off the coast of northwest Africa, this perennial, slow-growing palm can grow 40-60 ft tall. The massive trunk (4 ft across) is covered with diamond-shaped designs that mark the point of attachment of the leaves. The leaves are pinnate, feather-like fronds, which arch at the top and can grow 15-20 ft long.

**Phoenix canariensis:** Canary Island Date Palm

The fast-growing, deciduous Lacebark tree is a medium-size tree native to Australia. The bark is gray-brown and ridged. The leaves are ovate to palmately lobed & blue-green in color. The tree blooms in summer or fall after shedding its leaves. The deep-pink flowers are showy, bell-shaped and occur in clusters at the end of the branches. These trees live 50-150 years.

**Brachychiton discolor:** Lacebark

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The Mexican Palo Verde is a shrub or small tree which can grow 15-30 ft tall. It is multi-stemmed, with long, graceful drooping branches bearing long delicate leaves and sprays of yellow flowers that have 5 almost equal petals. It is a fast-growing tree, with green bark and thorns, which can grow in poor soils, is drought-tolerant and saline tolerant.

The Tipu Tree has a dark-brown to streaked-gray single trunk that produces a red sap when wounded. It has yellow to apricot color, pea-like flowers from late spring to early summer and grows 35-50 ft. It is a tropical tree native to South America, and in very dry locations will require regular watering. In more moderate areas, it is drought-tolerant.

The Brazilian Orchid Tree is partly deciduous with a rounded, umbrella-like shape. The tree is drought-tolerant, and moderately salt tolerant. It can grow 25-35 ft with an equal spread, and can live up to 150 years. The showy, white flowers are 3-4” wide, and orchid-like.

Metasequoia glyptostroboides: Dawn Redwood

Dawn Redwood is a native to coastal eastern Australia, the Silk Oak is a fast growing evergreen that reaches 25-65 ft and requires little to no additional water after it is established. Its compound fernlike leaves are grey at the bottom & green above. At about 10 years of age, they begin to flower in yellowish, orange bottlebrush-shaped racemes up to 7” long.

This fast-growing tree has a straight, single trunk that forms a narrow conical crown and can reach 70-100 ft. They are deciduous conifers with light green feathery leaves and ½-1” cones. Dawn Redwoods, native to China, are endangered, and the sole living species in the Metasequoia genus. They are considered a living fossil, around 5 Million years old.

1. Platanus racemosa: California Sycamore
2. Parkinsonia aculeata: Mexican Palo Verde
3. Tipuana tipu: Tipu Tree/Rosewood
4. Grevillea robusta: Silk Oak
5. Metasequoia glyptostroboides: Dawn Redwood
6. Sequoia sempervirens: Coast Redwood
7. Bauhinia forficata: Brazilian Orchid Tree
8. Yucca gloriosa: Spanish dagger
9. Pinus radiata: Aleppo Pine
10. Cupressus sempervirens: Mediterranean Cypress

This single or multi-trunked evergreen shrub is native to tropical areas of the southeastern US from North Carolina to Florida. It can grow up to 10 ft tall with an 8 ft spread. Its sword-like leaves are 2-3 ft long and 2’ wide. In summer, it produces a 6-8 ft spike of fragrant white flowers that are 3” across. Yuccas are only pollinated by the yucca moth.

The Aleppo Pine is native to the Mediterranean region. It is wind and somewhat drought-tolerant. However, without regular watering, the tree may drop needles. The tree can grow 30-60 ft tall, with a 20-40 ft spread. It has short, fine needles, 2-3” long, growing two per bundle. The resin from the trunk is used for chewing and flavoring wine.

The evergreen Italian Cypress is a columnar, tall, narrow and dense tree, which can grow 40-60 ft in height, with a spread of 10 ft or less. It has dark gray-green needle-like scaly leaves which are aromatic when crushed. It needs full sun and is drought-tolerant once established. The Cypress has been used in classic Italian gardens since the Renaissance.

The slow-growing, long-lived Pacific Yew is a small evergreen understory tree with an indistinct growth form. It rarely reaches 50 ft in height. It is native to the Pacific Northwest, but due to over-harvesting it is now endangered. It contains poisonous alkaloids known as taxanes and was the original species used to make the chemotherapy drug Taxol.