



Some of the Special Trees at the UVM Horticulture Research Center

June 2019

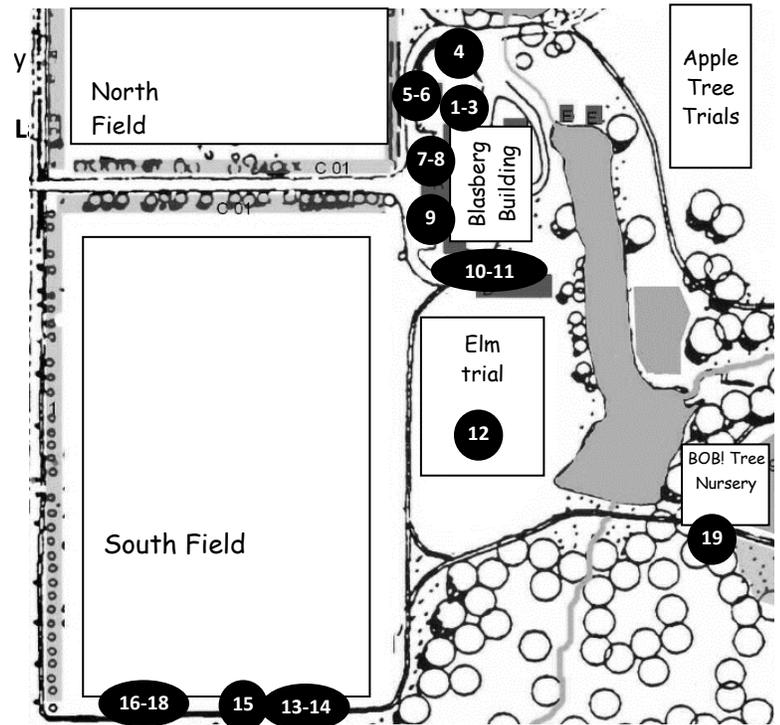


A self-guided tour of trees and points of interest in the UVM Horticultural Research Center. This was prepared by Branch Out Burlington! volunteers and V.J. Comai, Burlington city arborist, Burlington Parks, Rec. and Waterfront. It contains interesting facts and tips on identifying trees at the Center, located on Green Mtn. Dr. off Shelburne Rd. in So. Burlington. It is open to the public when staffing is available or for special events.

A Brief History

The UVM Horticulture Research Center, also called the "Hort Farm" is a field research facility for the College of Agric. & Life Sciences. The land (~60 acres) was purchased from a dairy farmer in 1952 for \$17,500. The property was designated for research, teaching and Extension activities linked with the VT Agric. Experiment Station. It is the site for many fruit and vegetable cultivar trials to assess suitability for our climate. It is also the home for several ornamental collections, including viburnums, ferns, lilacs, azaleas and rhododendrons. An extensive deciduous tree collection was established in the early 1960s and many remain alive today. In 1994 the Friends of the Hort Farm was established to protect the Center, which is prime land for development. They provide sweat equity to maintain the collections. The *Branch Out Burlington* Community Tree Nursery is located here, and provides over one hundred trees annually to the Burlington Parks Dept. to plant in public spaces. (From Hort Res Ctr. History by Norman Pellett, UVM Prof. Emeritus.

http://www.uvm.edu/~hortfarm/documents/HRC_HistoryPellet53_96.pdf)



Trees included in this brochure are not marked. They were alive and well in June 2019. Don't be alarmed if you can't find them all. Some may be lost to disease or storm damage in future years.

Trees north of the Blasberg building:

1. **Limber Pine** - *Pinus flexilis* 'Vanderwolf's Pyramid' - A Western white pine, with blue-green needles in bunches of 5, named for its pliable branches. Native to the Rocky Mts., from Alberta south into north. Mexico; and east to Texas.
2. **Weeping Alaskan Cedar** - *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis* 'Pendula' - a.k.a. Nootka falsecypress. Native to coastal Alaska south to Washington, and along the Cascades into Oregon. Has graceful, pendulous branches, typically reaches 30-45 ft and twice that in its natural range. Can live for 3,500 yr [Cary Award 1997]
3. **Corneliancherry Dogwood** - *Cornus mas* - Small tree native to central-southern Europe to West Asia where it lives in dry deciduous forests. Masses of yellow flowers in spring followed by bright red fruit. Suitable small hardy street tree for our region. [Cary Award 1999]
4. **Katsura Tree** - *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* - Large deciduous tree native to China and Japan with striking layered branches of heart-shaped leaves (scientific name means 'redbud leaf'). Beautiful apricot fall foliage; good specimen tree for parks and cemeteries. A line of these trees form the backdrop for evergreens and magnolias in front of the building. [Dirr's #1 favorite tree!]
5. **Seven-Son Flower** - *Heptacodium miconioides* - An unusual small tree with interesting opposite simple leaves with 3 pronounced veins and wavy margins and exfoliating bark. Fragrant creamy white flowers bloom in long panicles in late summer. After petals fall, pink sepals remain. Native to China; introduced in 1980. [Cary Award 2002]
6. **Japanese Tree Lilac** - *Syringa reticulata* - A tree-form lilac native to north. Japan, well adapted here as a landscape and low-growing street tree. Flowers in mid-June. [Cary Award 2000]

Trees around the Blasberg building:

7. **American Hornbeam** - *Carpinus caroliniana* - a.k.a. Blue Beech, Ironwood, Musclewood. Has smooth, gray, sinewy bark and dark green serrated leaves. Native understory tree in the birch family, typically grows to 20-30 ft. Gives kaleidoscope of foliage color throughout the year.
8. **Serviceberry** - *Amelanchier laevis* - a.k.a. Shadbush - Small tree native to the Northeast; seen along woods edges across Vermont. Produce fragrant white flowers in early spring (when shad run) and reddish berries in fall that attract birds. May be single- or multi-stemmed.
9. **Goldthread Falsecypress** - *Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'Filifera Aurea' - Has striking yellow-green foliage. Native to Japan. Grows to height of 3-6 ft. One of many popular varieties of falsecypress in the landscape trade. Deer won't eat them!
10. **Hemlock** - *Tsuga* spp. - *T. canadensis* is the native evergreen species found in our forests, but there are several cultivars offering gardeners different forms and sizes. All of them are susceptible to the hemlock woolly adelgid, an exotic invasive pest found in southeastern VT. It is wise to inspect your hemlocks regularly for the characteristic white tufts of this pest on the undersides of the needles. If you see these symptoms, call the VT Dept. of Ag.
11. **Colorado Blue Spruce** - *Picea pungens glauca* - Popular evergreen tree with bluish needles. Native to the Southwest, Rocky Mtns. from Colorado/Wyoming/Utah south to New Mexico.

Field area south of the Blasberg building:

12. **Elm** - *Ulmus* spp. - Several elm species and varieties were planted to test their growth attributes and their resistance to Dutch Elm disease. All have the same common features: shiny thick alternate serrated leaves with asymmetrical bases, irregular furrowed bark.

Trees along southern edge of South Field:

13. **Amur Cork Tree** - *Phellodendron amurense* - Medium-large shade tree with interesting corky furrowed bark on older trees; has opposite pinnately-compound leaves. Native to north. China, Manchuria and Japan. There is a large specimen across the pond behind the buildings.
14. **Blue Ash** - *Fraxinus quadrangulata* - Native to the Midwest, from Oklahoma to Michigan, and south to Kentucky. Twigs have four corky ridges. Pioneers extracted a black dye from the inner bark. Wood is used for bats, flooring and furniture. Appears to show resistance to the emerald ash borer, and exotic invasive pest threatening ash trees all across the US.
15. **Korean Mountainash** - *Sorbus japonica* - Has simple serrated leaves (not compound like the American and European mountainash trees), white flowers turning orange-red in the fall. Produces bunches of white flowers in spring followed by red fruit and yellow fall foliage. Native to Central China/Korea/Japan. Not a suitable street tree.
16. **Painted Buckeye** - *Aesculus sylvatica* 'Autumn splendor' - Has opposite palmately-compound leaves and yellow flowers. Related to Horsechestnut. Native to bottomlands from Pennsylvania west to Nebraska, south to Alabama.
17. **Shantung Maple** - *Acer truncatum* - Opposite shiny, dark green leaves, truncated at the base. Small round-headed maple. Native to northern China and other parts of Asia and Russia.
18. **Amur Maackia** - *Maackia amurensis* - Small landscape tree, with alternate pinnately-compound leaves; grows to 30 ft. Has long racemes of off-white flowers in mid-summer.
19. **Branch Out Burlington Community Tree Nursery** - Tree nursery maintained by local volunteers that provides over 100 trees annually to Burlington for planting along the city streets.

Want to get involved? All are welcome at our monthly meetings. Call Burlington Dept. of Parks, Rec. & Waterfront at 862-8245 for the time and place. Tax deductible donations can be made to *Branch Out Burlington!* and sent to Margaret Skinner, 93 Howard St., Burlington, VT 05401.

Visit our website at www.branchoutburlington.org