



# Arizona's Magnificent Trees

***2018 National Champion  
Tree Registry***



*Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management – Urban and  
Community Forestry/Forest Health Programs*

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## Message from the Arizona Coordinator

Hello Champion Tree Hunters,

During 2018, my first year serving as Arizona’s Magnificent Trees Coordinator, I had the distinct honor of traveling around our beautiful state to verify and re-measure our champion trees. I am a native Arizonan, growing up in the White Mountains of Arizona. My educational background is in Forestry with an emphasis in Wildlife Ecology and Management. In recent years I have had the opportunity to work throughout Arizona conducting a wide variety of natural resource surveys: from backpack shocking fish in the head waters of the Little Colorado River to marking timber on the San Francisco Peaks -- I have come to love and appreciate Arizona’s diverse forests and landscapes.

Beginning in 2019, I will focus the Magnificent Trees Program towards two goals: increased participation, with a special emphasis on youth engagement, and increased awareness and celebration of Magnificent Trees within Arizona communities. Supporting communities’ ability to recognize the social, economic, and environmental value of champion, heritage, and witness trees will go a long way toward encouraging Magnificent Tree hunters of all ages. I will also coordinate the creation of a strategic plan and advisory board to aid in program growth and development into the future. Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns and happy tree hunting!

Sincerely,  
Jon Orona  
Urban Forestry Specialist



## - INTRODUCTION -

Arizona is home to many amazing natural wonders. Of these, one of the least recognized is our trees and forests. From our sprawling Ponderosa Pine forests, to the largest Fremont Cottonwood in the nation found in Skull Valley, Arizona, to the Jail Tree used to shackle criminals before a prison was built in Wickenburg, Arizona – trees are rooted in Arizona’s history and heritage. The Arizona Magnificent Tree Program recognizes these amazing trees that are the largest of their species (Champion Trees), have cultural significance (Heritage Trees), and are proven to have been in their same location before Arizona Statehood (Witness trees).

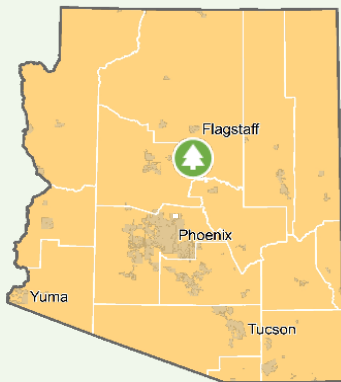
The Champion Tree Program acknowledges the largest trees in the state and nation – ranging in size from our smallest champion, Geyer Willow, to our largest champion, Fremont Cottonwood. These large trees are a result of a combination of factors such as growing in a location that has been protected or excluded from major disturbances, trees cared for by people, good soil, plenty of water, excellent genetics, and a little bit of luck. Trees are submitted to Arizona’s Magnificent Tree Program by members of the public and are judged on whether the tree is a champion by verifying three measurements.

Tree measurements include tree circumference, height, and crown spread and a point score is given based on these measurements. The point score is calculated by adding Tree Circumference + Tree Height +  $\frac{1}{4}$  Crown Spread = Total Score. Arizona is currently home to 66 national champion trees and we are always looking for more champions that are waiting to be discovered. If you are interested in becoming a Champion Tree Hunter or would like to visit one of our amazing trees, please contact the Arizona Magnificent Tree Coordinator at [ucf@dffm.az.gov](mailto:ucf@dffm.az.gov).



# Corkbark Fir (*Abies lasiocarpa* var. *arizonica*)

This champion Corkbark Fir was first nominated in 2010 by George and Temple Tallent. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Coconino County, the tree is publicly accessible on Coconino National Forest land. As the name suggests, Corkbark Fir has spongy bark similar in consistency to cork. Corkbark Fir can be found from southern Alaska to high elevations in Arizona and New Mexico.



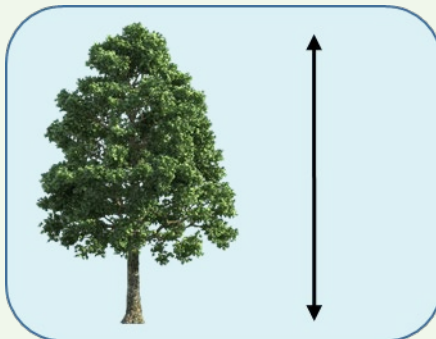
**Circumference**

**205 inches**



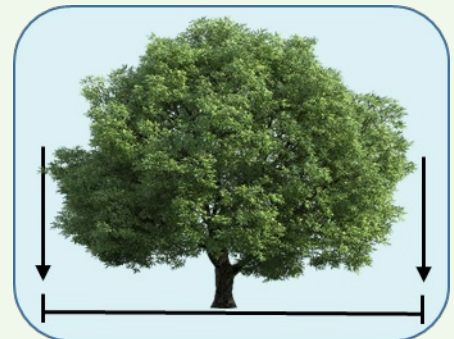
**Height**

**70 feet**



**Crown Spread**

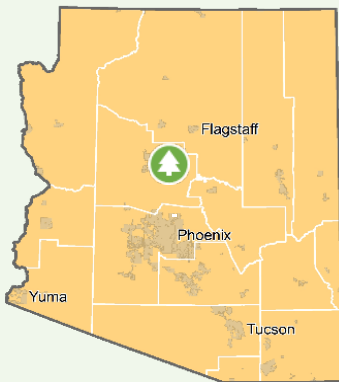
**78 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 295 POINTS -**

## Wait-a-minute Bush or Gregg's Catclaw (*Acacia greggii*)

This champion Wait-a-minute Bush or Gregg's Catclaw was first nominated in 2007 by David Thornburg. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Yavapai County, the tree can be found southeast of Cottonwood, Arizona. The specific epithet *greggii* refers to Josiah Gregg, author, explorer, and amateur naturalist of the American Southwest and northern Mexico. Gregg's Catclaw can be found throughout the southwestern United States and northern Mexico.



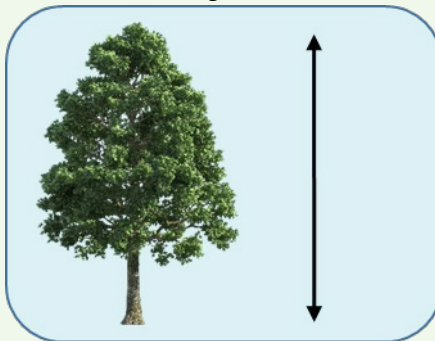
**Circumference**

**74 inches**



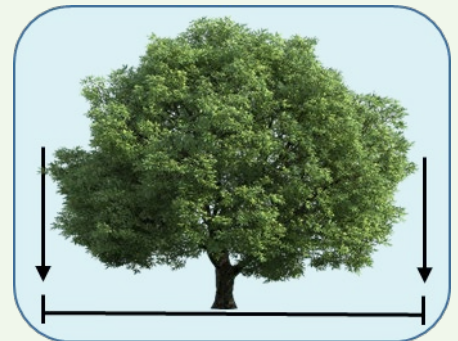
**Height**

**34 feet**



**Crown Spread**

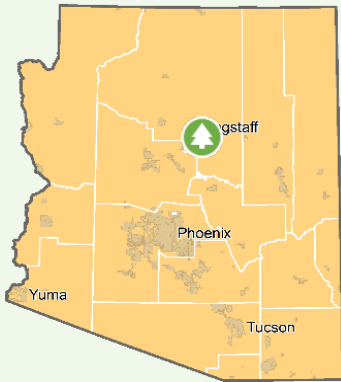
**35.5 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 177 POINTS -**

# Utah Serviceberry (*Amelanchier utahensis*)

This champion Utah Serviceberry was first nominated in 2005 by David and Judy Thornburg. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Coconino County, the tree can be found near Marshall Lake on the Coconino National Forest. Utah Serviceberry produces an edible fruit that is eaten by wildlife and humans alike. Utah Serviceberry typically grows as a shrub or small tree and can be found throughout much of the western United States.



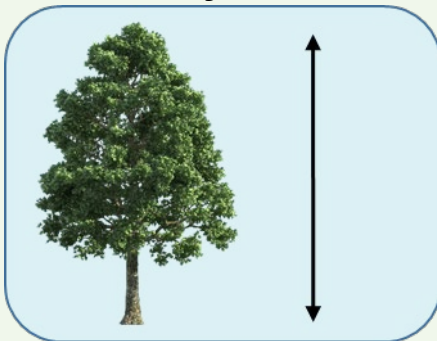
**Circumference**

**14 inches**



**Height**

**21 feet**



**Crown Spread**

**25 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 41 POINTS -**

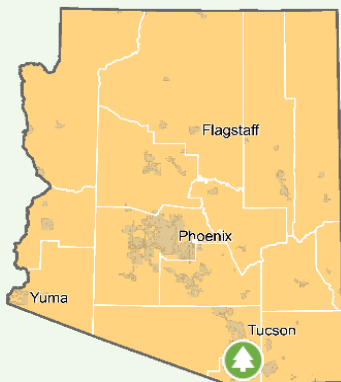
# Arizona Madrone (*Arbutus arizonica*)

This champion Arizona Madrone was first nominated in 2011 by Mike Hallen. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Santa Cruz County, the tree is publicly accessible on the Coronado National Forest. The fruit of Arizona Madrone are edible and have been used by indigenous peoples of the southwest for thousands of years. This tree is native to southeastern Arizona and extends into northwestern Mexico.



## Arizona's Magnificent Trees

Champion Tree Program



**PICTURES WANTED!**

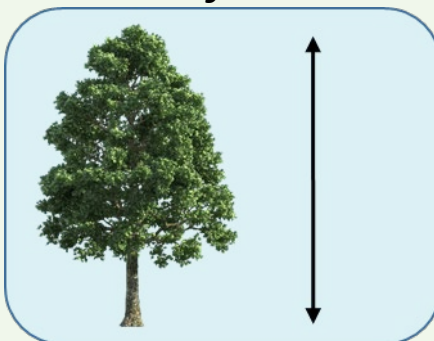
**Circumference**

**127 inches**



**Height**

**40 feet**



**Crown Spread**

**38 feet**

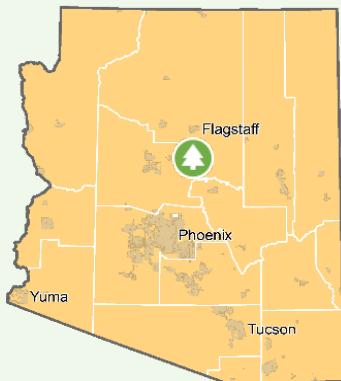


**- TOTAL SCORE: 177 POINTS -**



# Pringle Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pringlei*)

This champion Pringle Manzanita was first nominated in 2011 by Andy Allgood and David Thornburg. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Yavapai County, the tree can be found among the beautiful red rocks of the Sedona area. Manzanita is Spanish for “small apple” which the fruit often resemble and are an important food source for many wildlife species. Pringle Manzanita has a limited range only being found in Arizona, southern California, and Baja California.



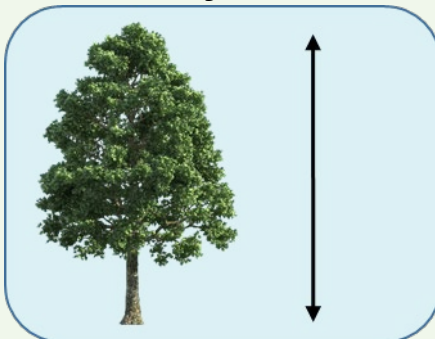
**Circumference**

**88 inches**



**Height**

**19 feet**



**Crown Spread**

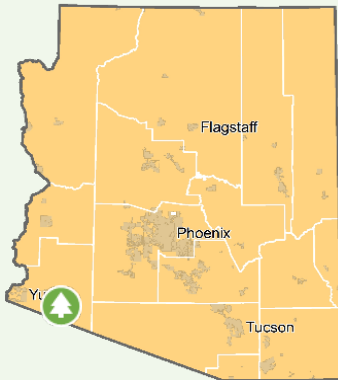
**23 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 113 POINTS -**

# Elephant Tree (*Bursera microphylla*)

This champion Elephant Tree was first nominated in 2012 by Doug Witbeck, Jim Malusa, and Pete Sundt. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Yuma County, the tree can be found on the Barry M. Goldwater Range but access is restricted and by permit only. The Elephant Tree is considered a semi-succulent because of its ability to store water in the conductive and parenchymal tissues of the trunk, lower limbs, and wood. Elephant Tree is native to the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico.



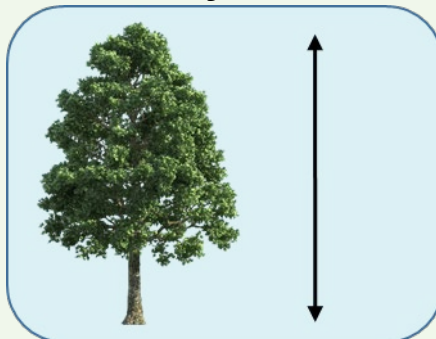
**Circumference**

**40 inches**



**Height**

**16 feet**



**Crown Spread**

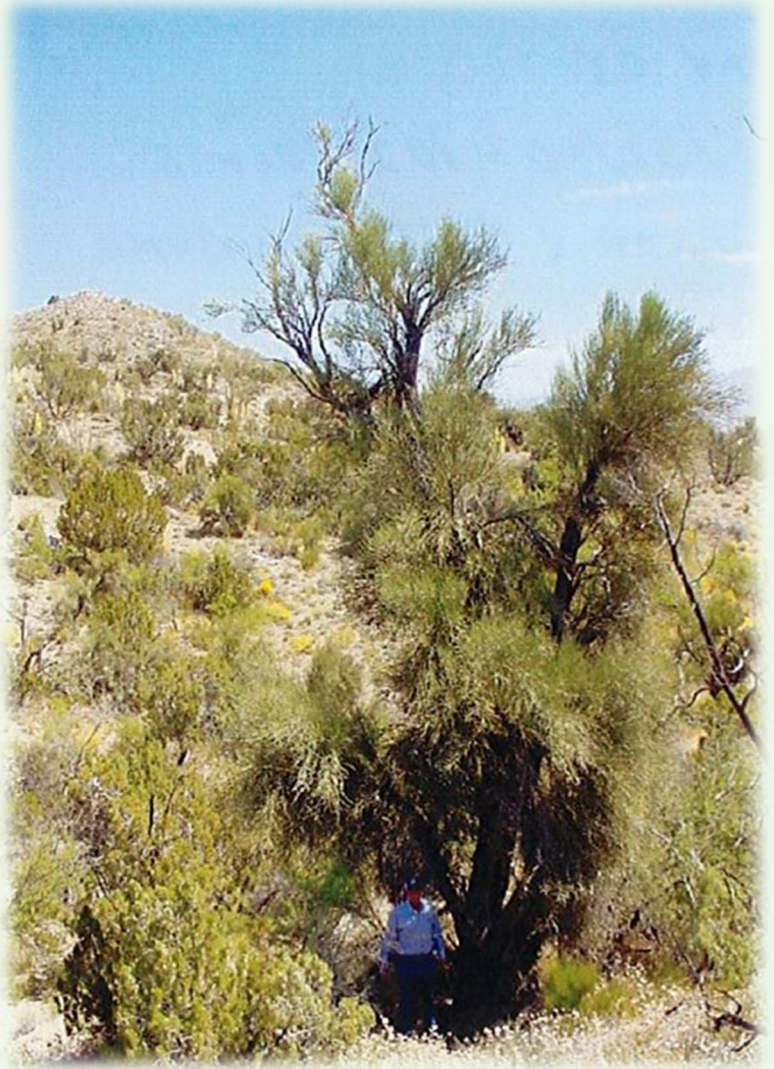
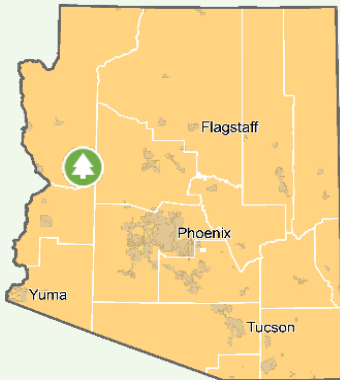
**22 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 62 POINTS -**

# Crucifixion Thorn or Canotia (*Canotia holacantha*)

This champion Crucifixion Thorn was first nominated in 2005 by David Thornburg. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Mohave County, the tree can be found near Wikieup, Arizona on Bureau of Land Management land. Crucifixion Thorn rarely has leaves and primarily photosynthesizes with its green twigs similar to its close relative the Palo Verde. The majority of the range of *Canotia holacantha* is found in Arizona, with small populations in Utah and far northwestern Mexico.



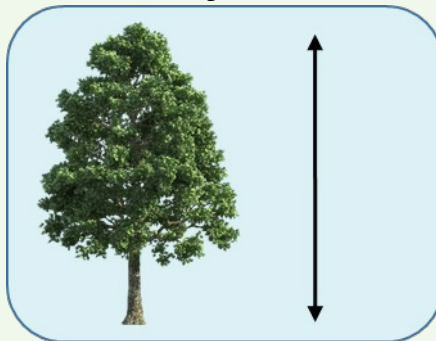
**Circumference**

**90 inches**



**Height**

**32 feet**



**Crown Spread**

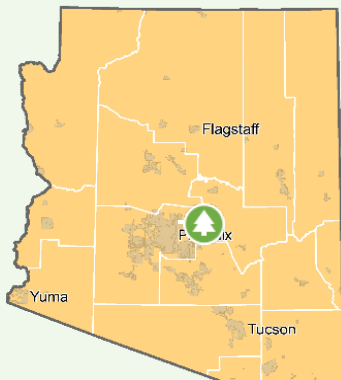
**20 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 127 POINTS -**

# Saguaro (*Carnegiea gigantea*) – Co-Champions

These champion Saguaros were nominated in 2009 and 2014 by Mike Hallen and Joe Orman. They are the largest known Saguaros in the country. Located in Maricopa and Pinal County, the Saguaro pictured to the left can be found near Peralta Trail in the Superstition Mountains and the Saguaro pictured to the right can be found near the Salt River and Bush Hwy Scenic drive. Both Saguaros are publicly accessible. Saguaros are an iconic symbol of Arizona and its for that reason that the Saguaro blossom was named the state flower of Arizona. The Saguaro is native to southern Arizona and northwestern Mexico.



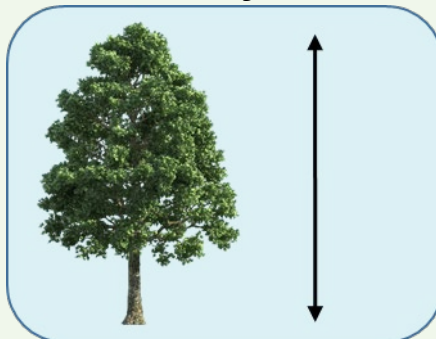
**Circumference**

**91, 83 inches**



**Height**

**46, 54 feet**



**Crown Spread**

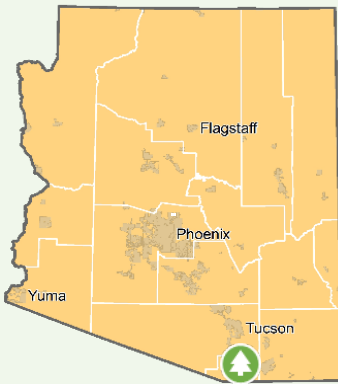
**8, 15 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 139, 141 POINTS -**

# Netleaf Hackberry (*Celtis reticulata*)

This champion Netleaf Hackberry was first nominated in 2007 by Ken Morrow and Bill Adler. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Santa Cruz County, the tree can be found along Sonoita Creek in Sonoita Creek State Natural Area. Netleaf Hackberry has a sweet edible berry and is a wildlife friendly tree that is great for planting in your yard. Netleaf Hackberry can be found from Washington to central Mexico to Kansas.



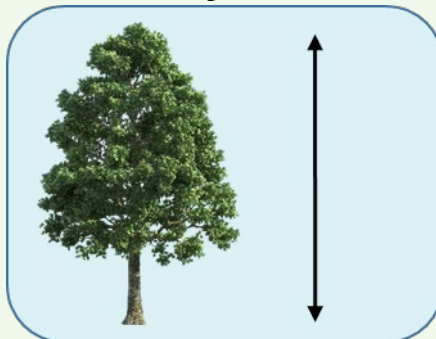
**Circumference**

**122 inches**



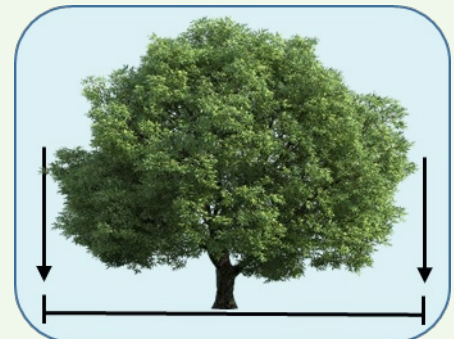
**Height**

**54 feet**



**Crown Spread**

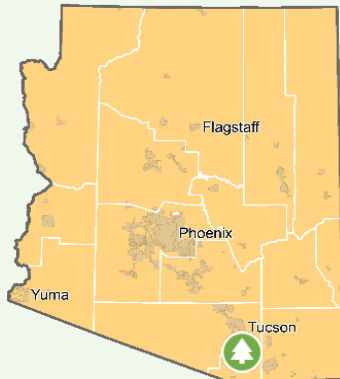
**71 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 194 POINTS -**

## Desert or Hairy Mountain Mahogany (*Cercocarpus breviflorus*)

This champion Hairy Mountain Mahogany was first nominated in 1996 by Robert Zahner and Sid Jackson. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Santa Cruz County, the tree can be found in the Santa Rita Mountains west of Sonoita, Arizona. Hairy Mountain Mahogany has a unique “feathery plume” fruit which likely contributed to its common name. Native to the southwest United States and northern Mexico, Hairy Mountain Mahogany is often associated Pinyon Pine and Juniper habitat.



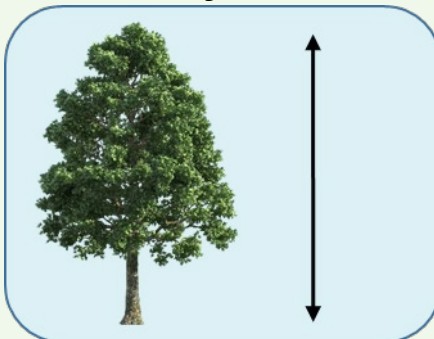
**Circumference**

**37 inches**



**Height**

**25 feet**



**Crown Spread**

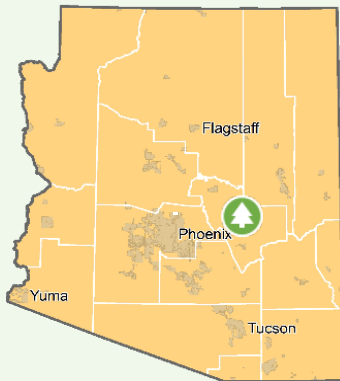
**20 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 67 POINTS -**

# Desert Willow (*Chilopsis linearis*)

This champion Desert Willow was first nominated in 1976 by Mitchell Holder. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Gila County, the tree can be found in Globe, Arizona. Desert Willow produces a beautiful flower that can be white, violet, or pink. These flowers and the resulting bean pods attract a wide variety of wildlife which has led to its popularity as a landscaping tree. The Desert Willow can be found throughout the southwestern United States growing in desert washes and arroyos as well as in Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas.



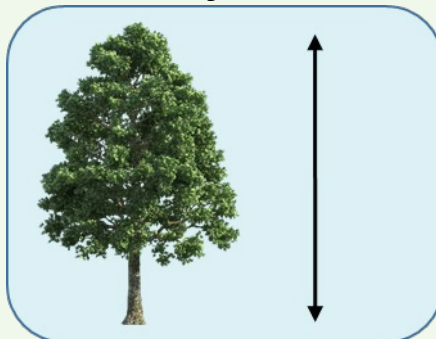
**Circumference**

**174 inches**



**Height**

**45 feet**



**Crown Spread**

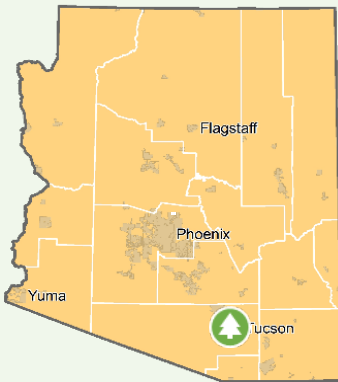
**49 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 231 POINTS -**

## Sour Orange (*Citrus aurantium*)

This champion Sour Orange was first nominated in 2004 by Judy Nantel and Chris Maloney. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Pima County, the tree can be found near the campus of University of Arizona. Citrus has been planted in Arizona since the late 1800's and is one of the 5 C's of Arizona. Native to Asia, citrus thrives in Arizona due to our warm climate and limited frosts.



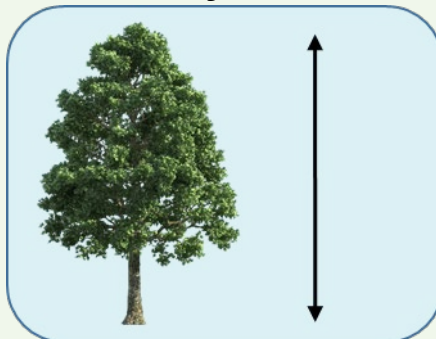
**Circumference**

**44 inches**



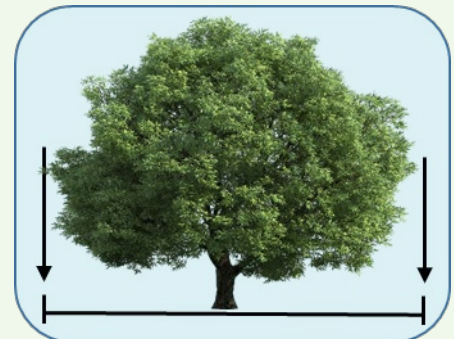
**Height**

**28 feet**



**Crown Spread**

**24 feet**

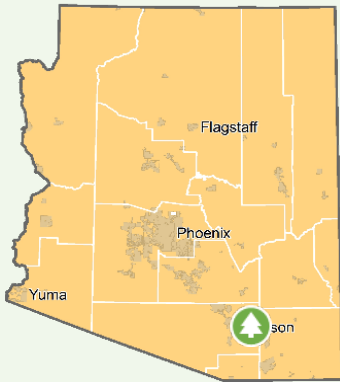


**- TOTAL SCORE: 78 POINTS -**



# Arizona Cypress (*Cupressus arizonica* ssp. *arizonica*)

This champion Arizona Cypress was first nominated in 1955 by James Mielke. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Pima County, the tree can be found in Bear Canyon in the beautiful Santa Catalina Mountains. Arizona Cypress is a fire-adapted species where seeds only open after fire, allowing for rapid colonization. There are 5 distinct varieties of Arizona Cypress recognized by botanists with *Cupressus arizonica* ssp. *arizonica* being found primarily in southern Arizona and north central Mexico.



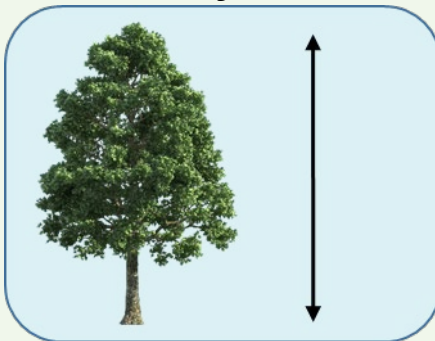
**Circumference**

**244 inches**



**Height**

**106 feet**



**Crown Spread**

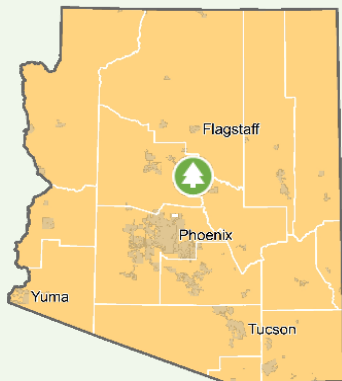
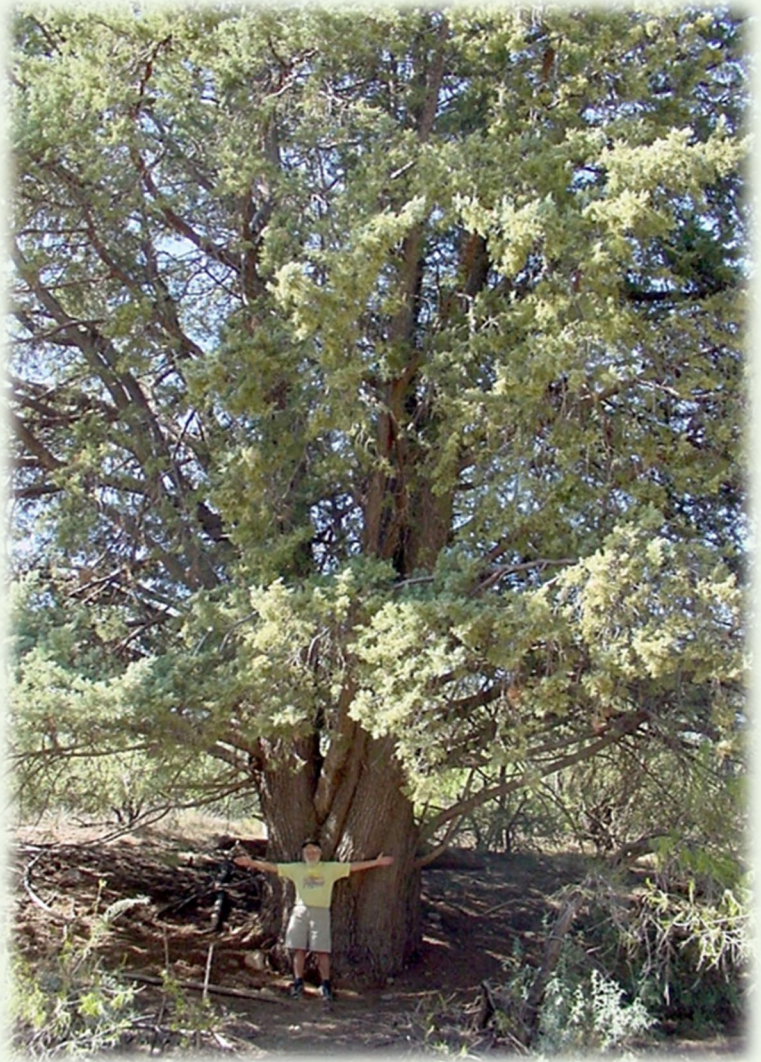
**48 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 362 POINTS -**

## Arizona Smooth Cypress (*Cupressus arizonica* var. *glabra*)

This champion Arizona Smooth Cypress was first nominated in 2003 by David Thornburg and Harry Untiedt. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Yavapai County, the tree can be found along Dry Beaver Creek outside of Camp Verde, Arizona. Arizona Smooth Cypress can be distinguished from Arizona Cypress by its non-furrowed and smooth bark. Additionally, Arizona Smooth Cypress has a limited range, only being found in central Arizona.



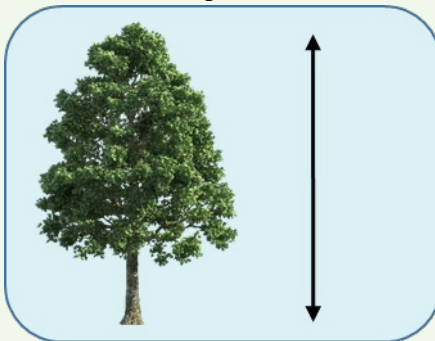
**Circumference**

**240 inches**



**Height**

**78 feet**



**Crown Spread**

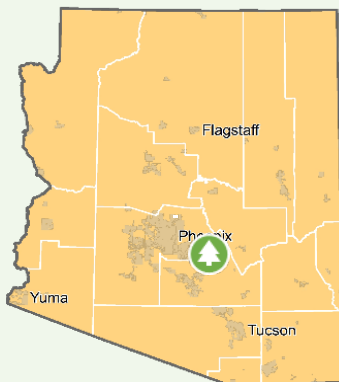
**56 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 332 POINTS -**

# Jumping Cholla (*Cylindropuntia fulgida*)

This champion Jumping Cholla was first nominated in 2009 by Mike Hallen. It is the largest known Cholla of its species in the country. Located in Pinal County, the Cholla can be found near Florence, Arizona. If you haven't yet experienced the painful poke from a Cholla consider yourself lucky. The name "Jumping Cholla" comes from its ability to easily detach stem segments when brushed against. Jumping Cholla is native to the deserts of Arizona, southern California, and southern Utah and Nevada.



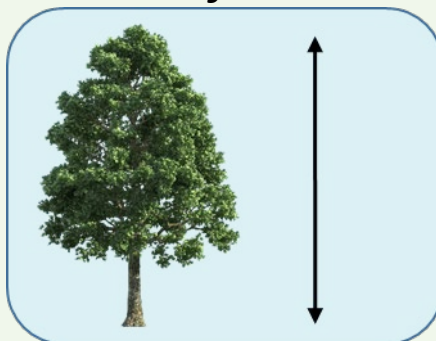
**Circumference**

**35 inches**



**Height**

**16 feet**



**Crown Spread**

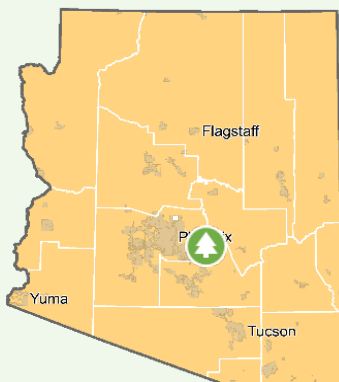
**13 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 54 POINTS -**

## Red Gum or Longbeak Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*)

This champion Red Gum or Longbeak Eucalyptus was first nominated in 2018 by Scott Roederer. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Pinal County, the tree can be found at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum where it is known as "Mr. Big". The name "Red Gum" comes from the bright red wood that can vary from a pinkish color to nearly black. Native to Australia, Red Gum can be found near water or in floodplains throughout Australia.



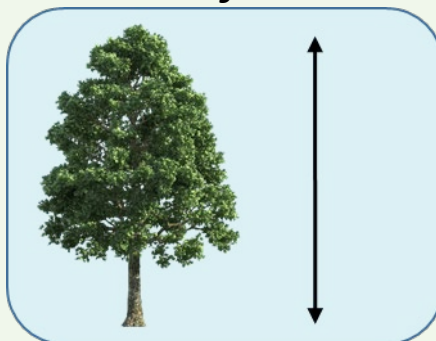
**Circumference**

**266 inches**



**Height**

**117 feet**



**Crown Spread**

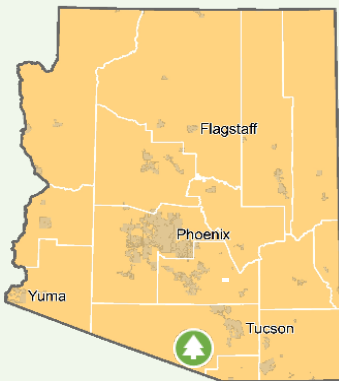
**119 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 413 POINTS -**

# Kidneywood (*Eysenhardtia orthocarpa*)

This champion Kidneywood was first nominated in 2007 by Ken Morrow. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Pima County, the tree can be found on Bureau of Land Management land in the Coyote Mountain Wilderness Area. Kidneywood typically grows as a small shrub or tree and makes for an excellent landscape tree. Kidneywood has a limited range in southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico as well as northern Mexico.



## Arizona's Magnificent Trees

Champion Tree Program

**PICTURES WANTED!**

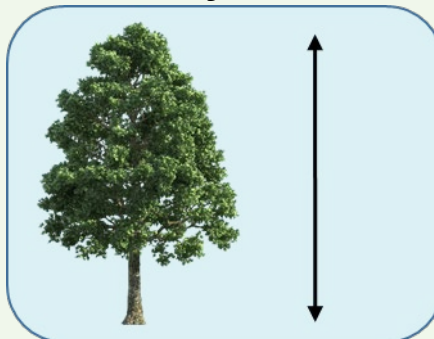
**Circumference**

**28 inches**



**Height**

**28 feet**



**Crown Spread**

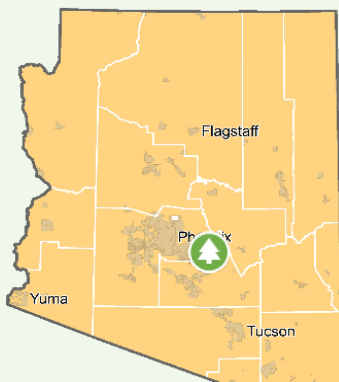
**20 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 61 POINTS -**

## Texas Kidneywood (*Eysenhardtia texana*)

This champion Texas Kidneywood was first nominated in 2003 by Ken Morrow, Mike Hallen, and Kathryn Stiles. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Pinal County, the tree can be found at Boyce Thompson Arboretum outside of Superior, Arizona. Texas Kidneywood produces a beautiful white flower that is attractive to a wide variety of pollinators. Native to southern Texas and northeastern Mexico, Texas Kidneywood is an introduced ornamental tree to Arizona.



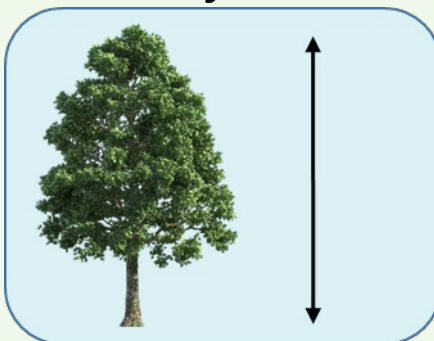
**Circumference**

**17 inches**



**Height**

**27 feet**



**Crown Spread**

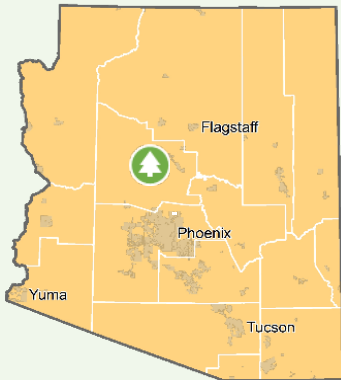
**14 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 48 POINTS -**

# Lowell Ash (*Fraxinus anomala var. lowellii*)

This champion Lowell Ash was first nominated in 2003 by David Thornburg and Harry Untiedt. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Yavapai County, the tree can be found in the foothills of the Mingus Mountains. Lowell Ash typically grows as a bush or small tree. The Lowell Ash is native to Arizona and can be found growing in riparian woodlands throughout north and eastern Arizona.



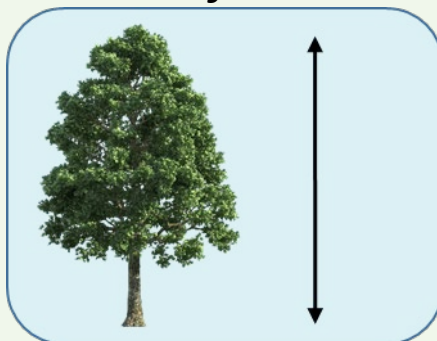
**Circumference**

**58 inches**



**Height**

**33 feet**



**Crown Spread**

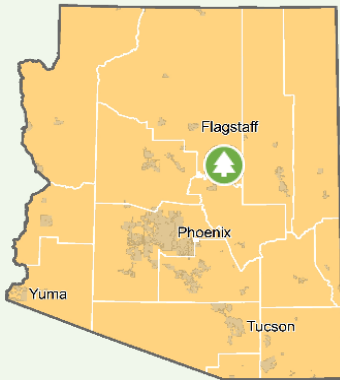
**21 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 96 POINTS -**

## Fragrant Ash (*Fraxinus cuspidata*)

This champion Fragrant Ash was first nominated in 2004 by David Thornburg. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Coconino County, the tree can be found growing along Clear Creek near Happy Jack, Arizona. Fragrant Ash typically grows as a small tree or shrub and has a fragrant white flower. Native to Arizona, Fragrant Ash can be found growing along hillsides, slopes, and riparian canyons.



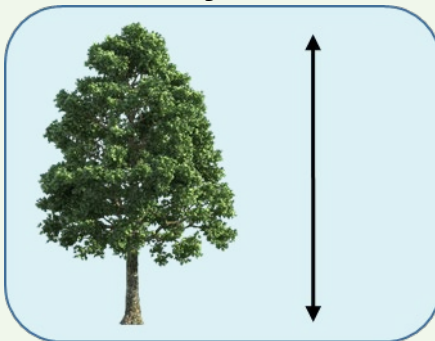
**Circumference**

**46 inches**



**Height**

**40 feet**



**Crown Spread**

**37 feet**

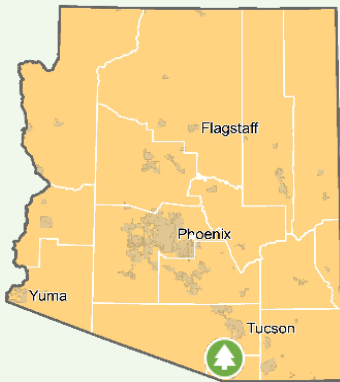


**- TOTAL SCORE: 95 POINTS -**



## Goodding's Ash (*Fraxinus gooddingii*)

This champion Goodding's Ash was first nominated in 1995 by Josh Tewksbury. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Santa Cruz County, the tree can be found in the Tumacacori Mountains. Goodding's Ash is similar to other small ash trees but the defining characteristic of this species is its fine hairs on young twigs, buds, and petioles. Goodding's Ash has a limited range and can only be found in Santa Cruz and Cochise Counties as well as in far northern Mexico.



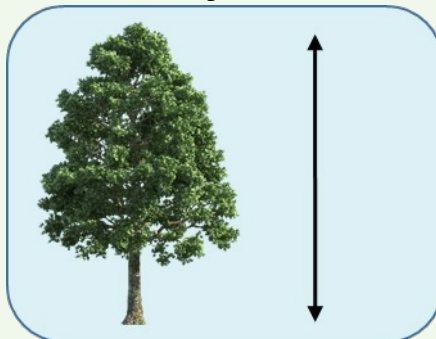
**Circumference**

**25 inches**



**Height**

**25 feet**



**Crown Spread**

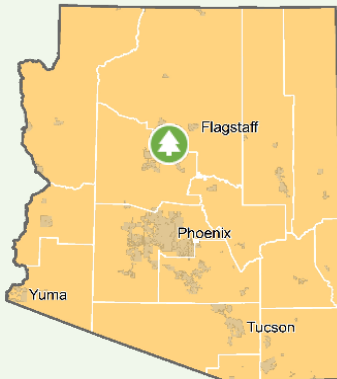
**20 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 55 POINTS -**

## Wright's Silktassel (*Garrya wrightii*)

This champion Wright's Silktassel was first nominated in 2007 by David Thornburg. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Yavapai County, the tree can be found in the beautiful red rocks of Sedona, Arizona. Wright's Silktassel typically grows as a small shrub or small tree and rapidly re-sprouts after fire. Native to the southwest United States, Wright's Silktassel can be found growing alongside other chaparral species such as emory oak and manzanita.



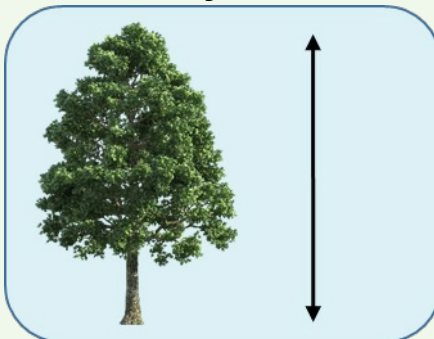
**Circumference**

**38 inches**



**Height**

**17 feet**



**Crown Spread**

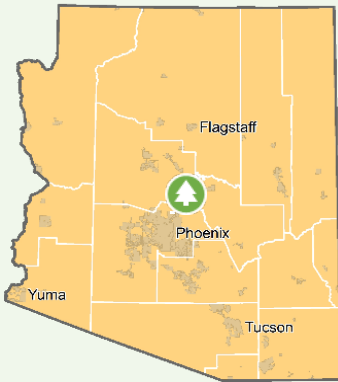
**19 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 60 POINTS -**

# Arizona Walnut (*Juglans major*)

This champion Arizona Walnut was first nominated in 2007 by David Thornburg. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Yavapai County, the tree can be found in the Cedar Bench Wilderness. Arizona Walnut is a commonly seen tree growing near water in Arizona. The Arizona Walnut has an edible nut that many species of wildlife enjoy. This tree has a wide native distribution, being found in Arizona and New Mexico, east to Texas and Oklahoma, and south into southcentral Mexico.



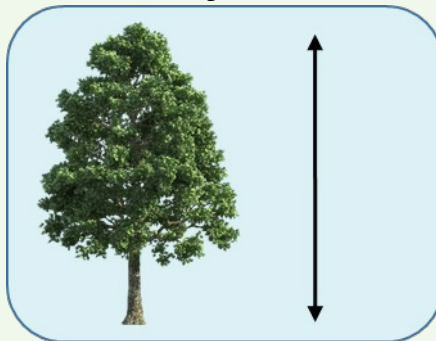
**Circumference**

**215 inches**



**Height**

**81 feet**



**Crown Spread**

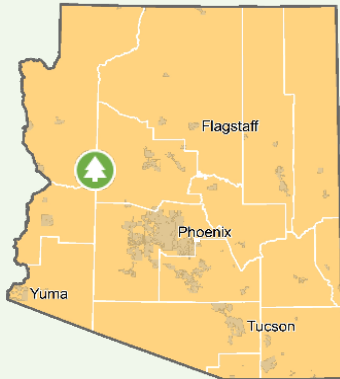
**88 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 318 POINTS -**

# California Juniper (*Juniperus californica*)

This champion California Juniper was first nominated in 2007 by David Thornburg. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Yavapai County, this tree can be found on Bureau of Land Management land near Nothing, Arizona. Similar to other junipers, the California Juniper produces a berry like cone that is edible and has been harvested and eaten by Native American groups in the southwest for thousands of years. Native throughout much of California, this juniper can only be found in the far western portion of Arizona.



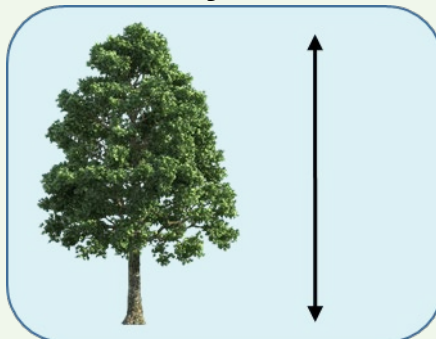
**Circumference**

**157 inches**



**Height**

**25 feet**



**Crown Spread**

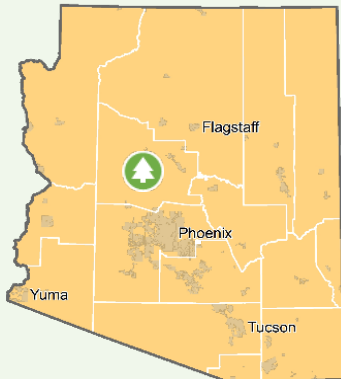
**42 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 193 POINTS -**

# Alligator Juniper (*Juniperus deppeana*)

This champion Alligator Juniper was first nominated in 1998 by Mickey and Richard Contreras. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Yavapai County, the tree can be found in the foothills of Granite Mountain outside of Prescott, Arizona. This tree was saved by the Granite Mountain Hotshots in 2013 when the Doce Fire threatened to destroy it. Shortly after, the Granite Mountain crew were killed battling the Yarnell Hill Fire except for one survivor, Brendan McDonough. This tree serves as a living memorial to the Granite Mountain 19 Hotshot Crew.



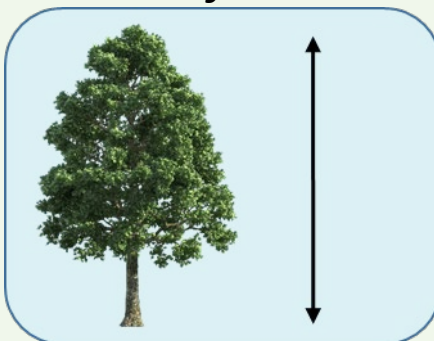
**Circumference**

**324 inches**



**Height**

**52 feet**



**Crown Spread**

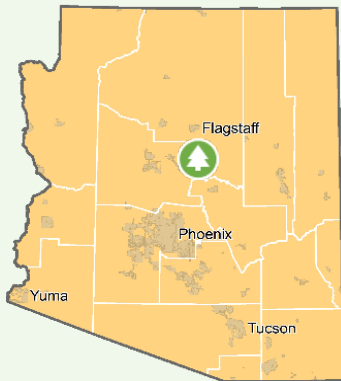
**70 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 394 POINTS -**

# Oneseed Juniper (*Juniperus monosperma*)

This champion Oneseed Juniper was first nominated in 2007 by David Thornburg. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Coconino County, the tree can be found in the Munds Mountain Wilderness, overlooking beautiful Sedona, Arizona. Oneseed Juniper has many different uses and nearly every part of the tree has been used by Native peoples to make medicinal remedies as well as for food, structural timber, and fire wood. Native to Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado, Oneseed Juniper is a common species in mid-elevation forests.



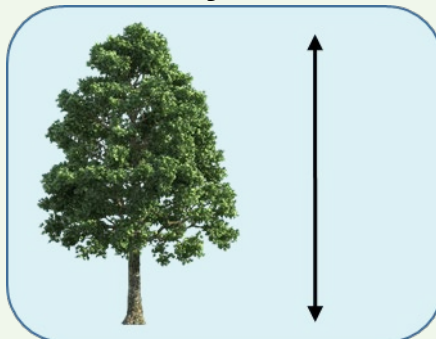
**Circumference**

**130 inches**



**Height**

**28 feet**



**Crown Spread**

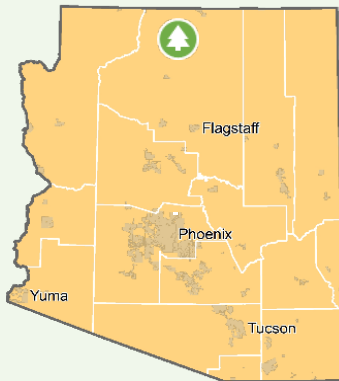
**27 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 165 POINTS -**

# Utah Juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*)

This champion Utah Juniper was first nominated in 2018 by Brian Jansen. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Coconino County, the tree can be found west of Jacob's Lake, Arizona on the Kaibab National Forest. The Utah Juniper is sometimes called "Stoneseed Juniper" as the tree produces a hard berry-like cone. Native to the western United States, the Utah Juniper is a common tree found in Pinyon-juniper woodlands.



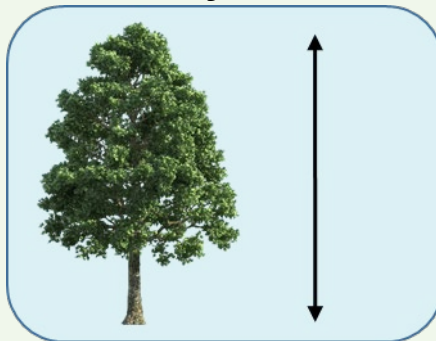
**Circumference**

**172 inches**



**Height**

**33 feet**



**Crown Spread**

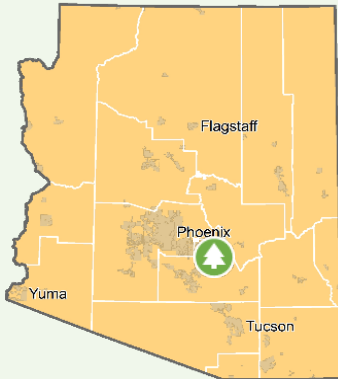
**50 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 218 POINTS -**

## Allthorn (*Koeberlinia spinosa*)

This champion Allthorn was first nominated in 1993 by Bob and Glenda Zahner. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Pinal County, the tree can be found at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum outside of Superior, Arizona. Allthorn typically grows as a small shrub and has green stems and branches where most the photosynthesis occurs. Native to southern Arizona, New Mexico, southwestern Texas, and northern Mexico, Allthorn is a low elevation desert-adapted species.



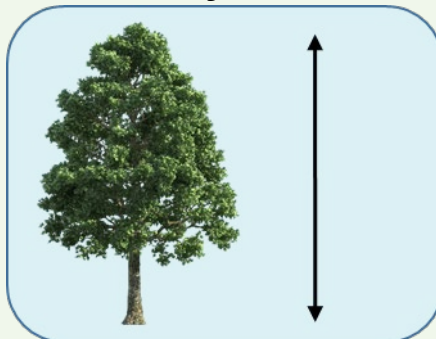
**Circumference**

**27 inches**



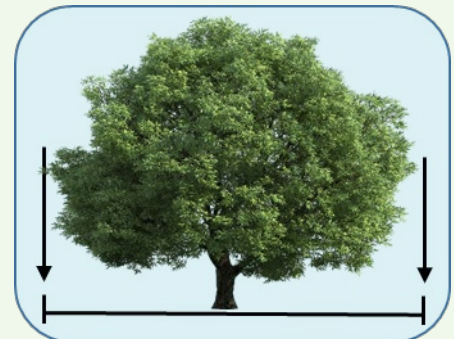
**Height**

**23 feet**



**Crown Spread**

**19 feet**

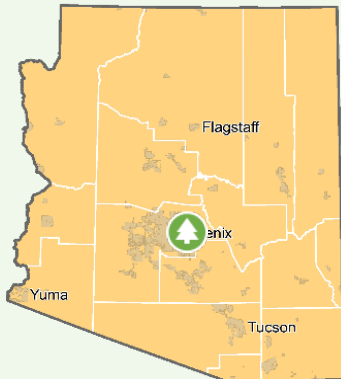


**- TOTAL SCORE: 55 POINTS -**



## Desert Fern or Littleleaf Lysiloma (*Lysiloma watsonii*)

This champion Desert Fern was first nominated in 2005 by Ken Morrow. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Maricopa County, the tree can be found in Paradise Valley, Arizona at Lon's Restaurant at the Hermosa Inn. Desert Fern typically grows as a multi-stemmed bush and this individual requires props due to its large size. Native to southern Arizona and northern Mexico, Desert Fern is typically found growing in riparian areas or desert foothill washes.



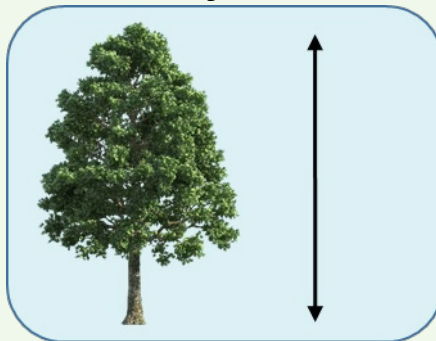
**Circumference**

**101 inches**



**Height**

**38 feet**



**Crown Spread**

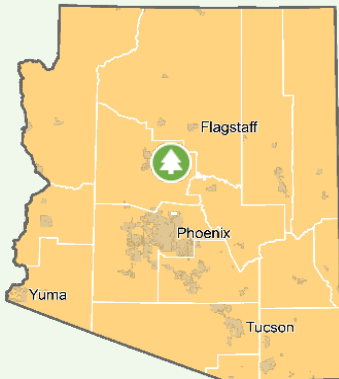
**48 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 151 POINTS -**

## Texas Mulberry (*Morus microphylla*)

This champion Texas Mulberry was first nominated in 2015 by George Tallent. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Yavapai County, the tree can be found in the town of Cottonwood, Arizona. Texas Mulberry produces a berry fruit that is edible to wildlife as well as people. Native to the south portion of the United States and into Mexico, Texas Mulberry, as well as other mulberries, are commonly planted in urban environments.



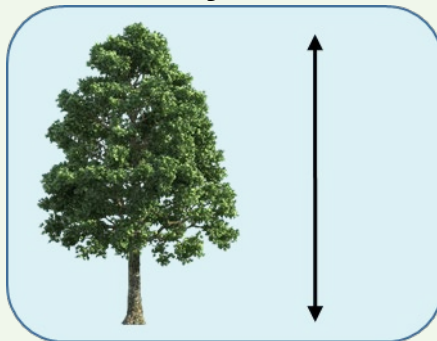
**Circumference**

**228 inches**



**Height**

**48 feet**



**Crown Spread**

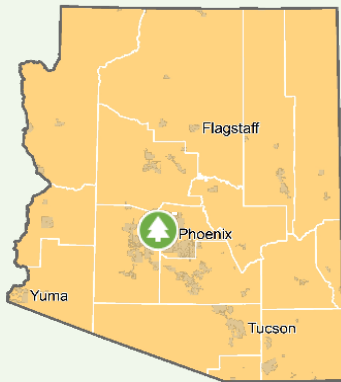
**112 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 304 POINTS -**

# Oleander (*Nerium oleander*)

This champion Oleander was first nominated in 2003 by Larry Wright and Russell Gates. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Maricopa County, this tree can be found at the home of Louis and Iris DePasquale of Sun City, Arizona. Oleander has been cultivated throughout the world for millennia despite its reputation as being toxic if ingested. Due to its widespread cultivation, researchers are not entirely sure of its native origin but suspect somewhere in southwest Asia.



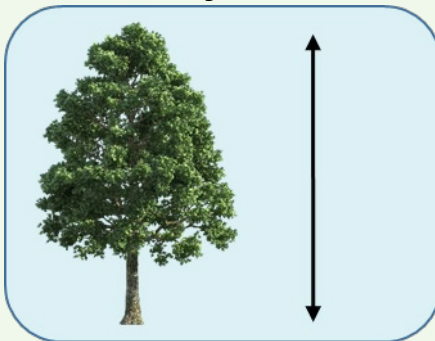
**Circumference**

**65 inches**



**Height**

**30 feet**



**Crown Spread**

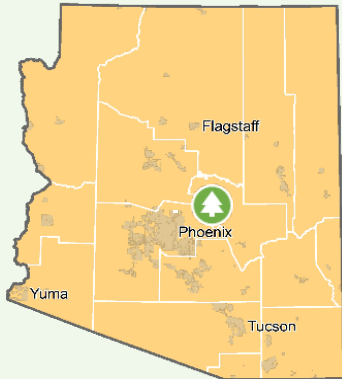
**27 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 102 POINTS -**

## Tree Tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*)

This champion Tree Tobacco was first nominated in 2007 by Andy and Marsha Allgood. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Gila County, the tree can be found on the west bank of Roosevelt Lake near the Cottonwood Cove Picnic area. Tree Tobacco has medicinal properties and was smoked by many Native American groups, but the leaves also contain toxic compounds that can be fatal to humans. Native to South America, Tree Tobacco has been introduced across the world and is considered an invasive species in some areas.



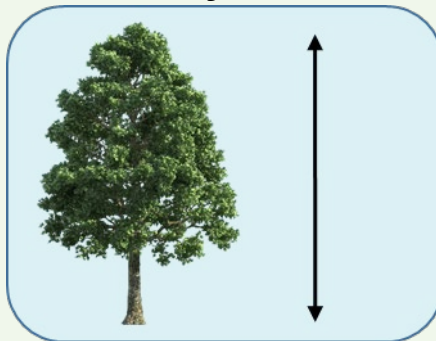
**Circumference**

**18 inches**



**Height**

**20 feet**



**Crown Spread**

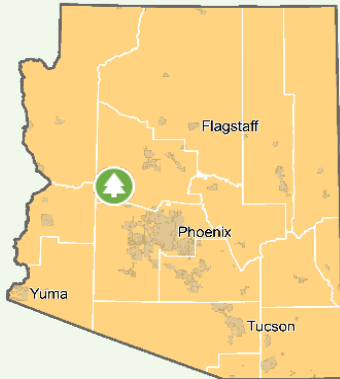
**16 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 42 POINTS -**

## Desert Ironwood (*Olneya tesota*)

This champion Desert Ironwood was first nominated in 2011 by Steve and Julie Plath. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Maricopa County, the tree can be seen while driving on State Route 74 growing in a roadside desert wash. Desert Ironwood is a common desert-adapted tree of Arizona and is an important “nurse tree” for other desert species such as the Saguaro cactus. Desert Ironwood acquired its name from its dense strong wood that is rumored to sink in water. Native to the southwest, the range of Desert Ironwood follows the boundary of the Sonoran Desert.



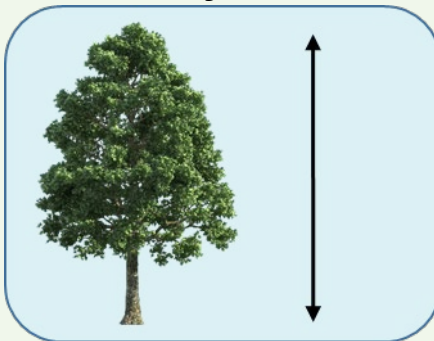
**Circumference**

**196 inches**



**Height**

**45 feet**



**Crown Spread**

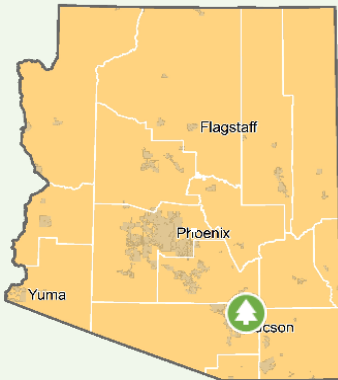
**62 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 257 POINTS -**

# Prickly Pear or Indian Fig (*Opuntia ficus-indica*)

This champion Prickly Pear was first nominated in 2009 by Mike Hallen. It is the largest known cactus of its species in the country. Located in Pinal County, this cactus can be found at the residence of Jim and Julie Martin. Prickly Pear has a delicious fleshy fruit that is eaten throughout its range and is an important crop in many arid regions. Native to Mexico, Prickly Pear has been widely planted throughout arid areas of the world due to its edible fruit and drought tolerance.



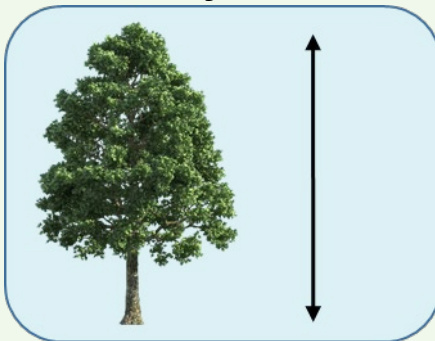
**Circumference**

**42 inches**



**Height**

**17 feet**



**Crown Spread**

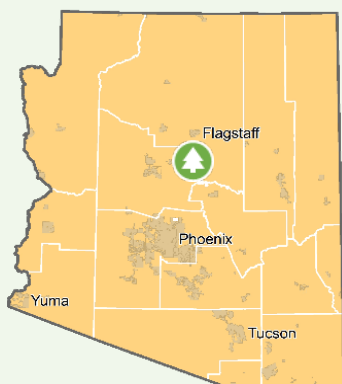
**17 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 63 POINTS -**

# Knowlton Hophornbeam (*Ostrya knowltonii*)

This champion Knowlton Hophornbeam was first nominated in 2007 by David Thornburg, Andy Allgood, and Harry Untiedt. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Coconino County, the tree can be found along the West Fork Oak Creek trail north of Sedona, Arizona. Known for having hard durable wood, Knowlton Hophornbeam can be used in furniture, tool handles, and fence posts. Native to isolated areas in the southwest, Knowlton Hophornbeam is uncommon and listed as a vulnerable species due to its limited range.



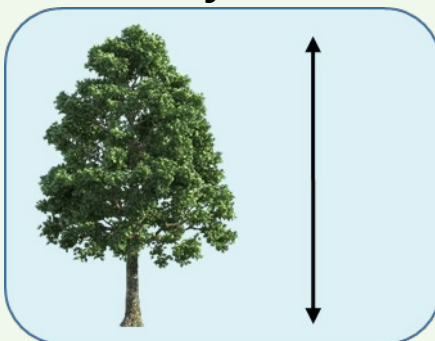
**Circumference**

**132 inches**



**Height**

**40 feet**



**Crown Spread**

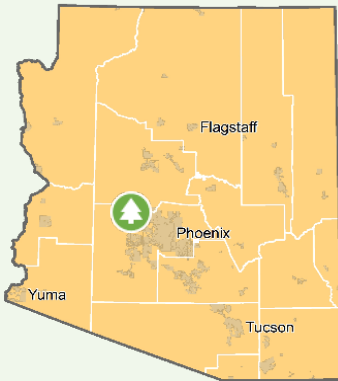
**47 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 184 POINTS -**

## Blue Palo Verde (*Parkinsonia florida*)

This champion Blue Palo Verde was first nominated in 2007 by David Thornburg. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Maricopa County, the tree can be found in a desert wash off N Vulture Mine Road near Wickenburg, Arizona. Blue Palo Verde is the state tree of Arizona and showcases a green stem and branches with a bright yellow flower in the spring. Native to the Sonoran and eastern Mojave Desert, the Blue Palo Verde prefers washes where it can access occasional water.



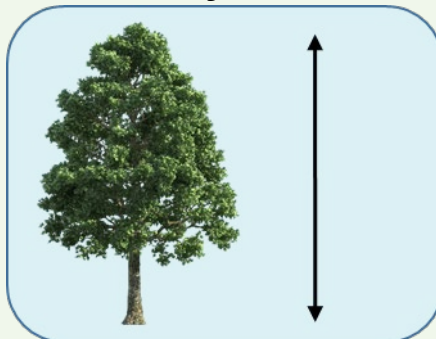
**Circumference**

**100 inches**



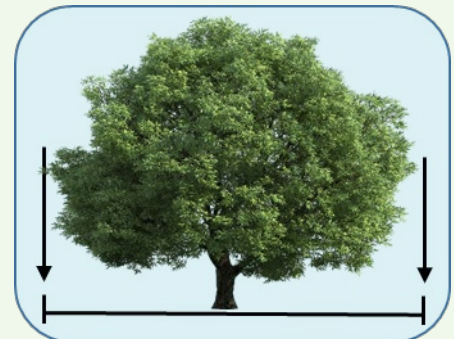
**Height**

**40 feet**



**Crown Spread**

**48 feet**

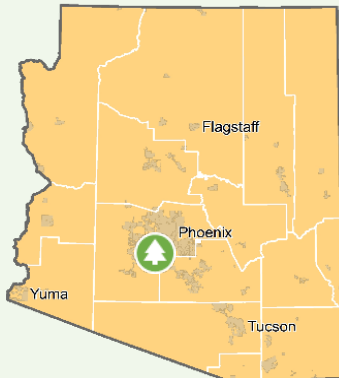


**- TOTAL SCORE: 152 POINTS -**



# Yellow Palo Verde (*Parkinsonia microphylla*)

This champion Yellow Palo Verde was first nominated in 2003 by Mike Hallen. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Maricopa County, the tree can be found in the Estrella Mountain Foothills southwest of Phoenix, Arizona. Yellow Palo Verde, similar to other desert trees, is an important “nurse tree” for other desert species such as the Saguaro cactus. Native to the Sonoran Desert, Yellow Palo Verde can be found in southern Arizona and northwestern Mexico.



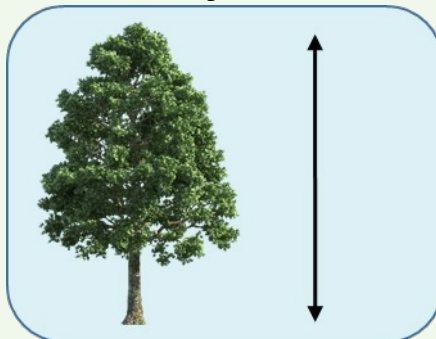
**Circumference**

**66 inches**



**Height**

**29 feet**



**Crown Spread**

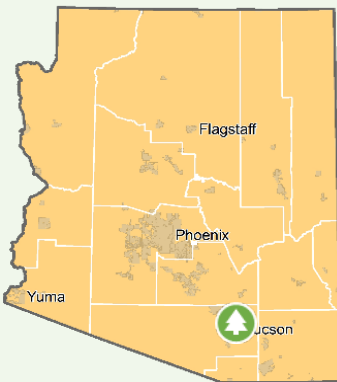
**44 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 106 POINTS -**

## Arizona Pine (*Pinus arizonica*)

This champion Arizona Pine was first nominated in 1998 by Bob and Glenda Zahner. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Pima County, the tree can be found near Rose Canyon Lake in the beautiful Catalina Mountains northeast of Tucson, Arizona. Arizona Pine was once considered a variant of Ponderosa Pine but now is regarded as a separate species. Native to southeastern Arizona and northern Mexico, Arizona Pine can be identified by its typical 5-needle fascicles.



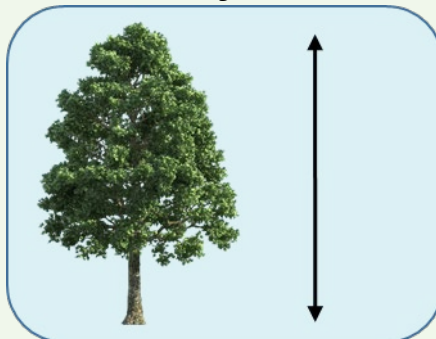
**Circumference**

**105 inches**



**Height**

**108 feet**



**Crown Spread**

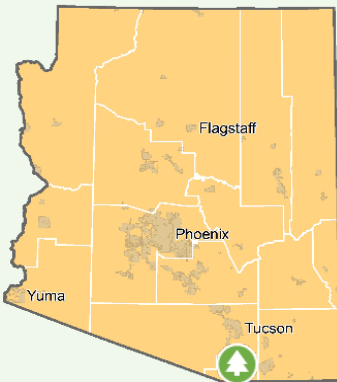
**60 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 273 POINTS -**

## Apache Pine (*Pinus engelmannii*)

This champion Apache Pine was first nominated in 1998 by Ken Morrow and Robert Zahner. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Santa Cruz County, the tree can be found in Madera Canyon south of Tucson, Arizona. Apache Pine has some of the longest pine needles of any pine which distinctly separates it from other pines found within its range. Native throughout the Sierra Madre Occidental, the range of the Apache Pine barely extends into southeastern Arizona.



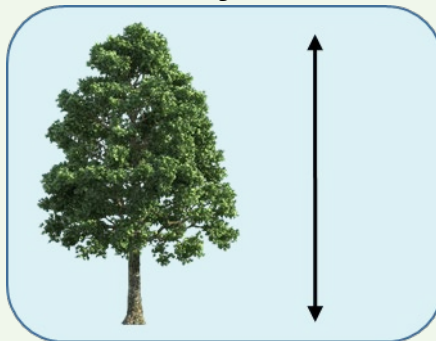
**Circumference**

**127 inches**



**Height**

**108 feet**



**Crown Spread**

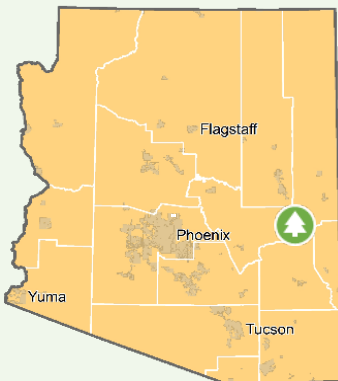
**44 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 246 POINTS -**

# Chihuahua Pine (*Pinus leiophylla* var. *chihuahuana*)

This champion Chihuahua Pine was first nominated in 2012 by Ron Miller, Robert Lacapa, and Danny Edwards. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Apache County, the tree is located on White Mountain Apache Tribal land. Chihuahua Pine has a beneficial adaptation to fire where if the crown is destroyed by fire the tree is able to send out new shoots to regrow the crown. Native to the mountains of Mexico, the range of Chihuahua Pine barely reaches into southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico.



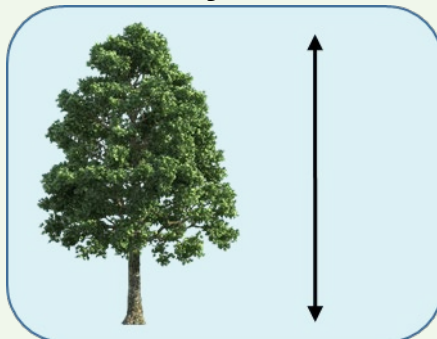
**Circumference**

**122 inches**



**Height**

**90 feet**



**Crown Spread**

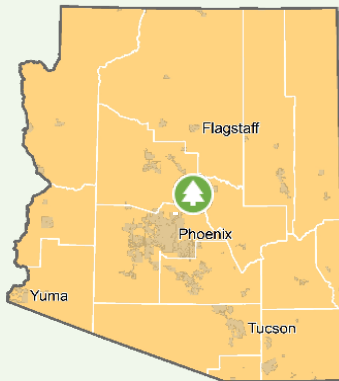
**34 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 221 POINTS -**

# Singleleaf Pinyon (*Pinus monophylla* var. *fallax*)

This champion Singleleaf Pinyon was first nominated in 2007 by David Thornburg, Andy Allgood, and Harry Untiedt. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Yavapai County, the tree can be found in Tank Canyon on the Prescott National Forest. Singleleaf Pinyon produces a large nutritious nut that is edible and has been harvested for food by humans for thousands of years. Native to the western United States, this variety of Singleleaf Pinyon is primarily found in Arizona.



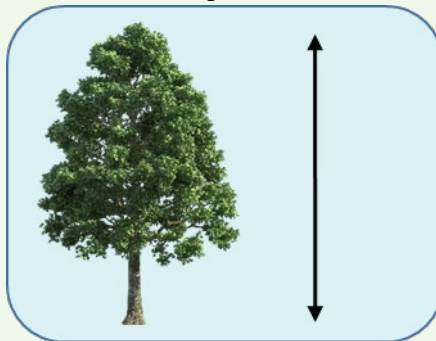
**Circumference**

**101 inches**



**Height**

**84 feet**



**Crown Spread**

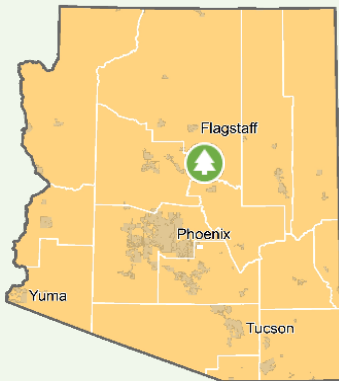
**45 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 196 POINTS -**

## Southwestern Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa* var. *brachyptera*)

This champion Southwestern Ponderosa Pine was first nominated in 2018 by Tyler Williams. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Coconino County, the tree can be found on the Coconino National Forest overlooking Oak Creek Canyon near Sedona, Arizona. Ponderosa Pine is a fire-adapted species and many old trees, such as this one, have burn scars on the stem. The Ponderosa Pine is an iconic species of Arizona forests, and Arizona is home to the largest contiguous Ponderosa Pine forest in the world.



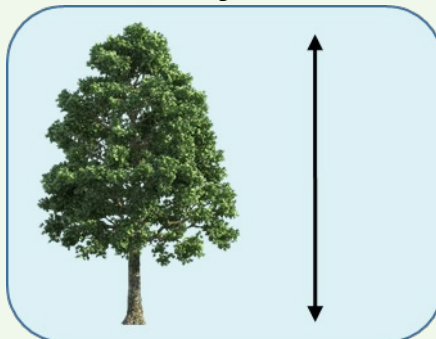
**Circumference**

**196 inches**



**Height**

**113 feet**



**Crown Spread**

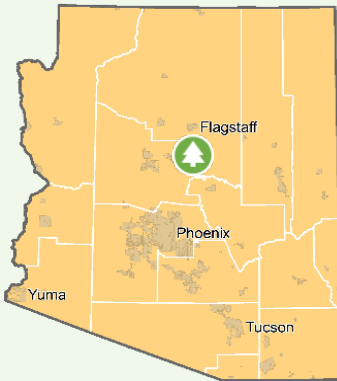
**45 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 320 POINTS -**

# Arizona Sycamore (*Platanus wrightii*)

This champion Arizona Sycamore was first nominated in 2011 by David Thornburg and Andy Allgood. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Yavapai County, the tree can be found just outside of Camp Verde, Arizona. Arizona Sycamore is a common riparian tree with a large palmate leaf and distinct spherical seed. Native to the southwestern United States and northern Mexico, Arizona Sycamore is a hardy riparian species capable of tolerating extreme heat and intense floods.



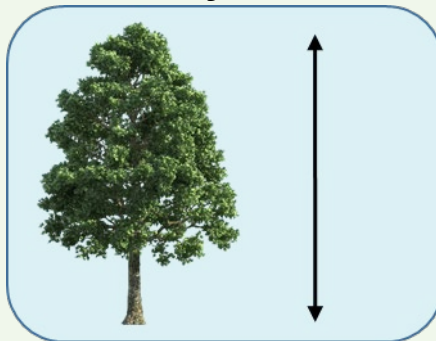
**Circumference**

**424 inches**



**Height**

**54 feet**



**Crown Spread**

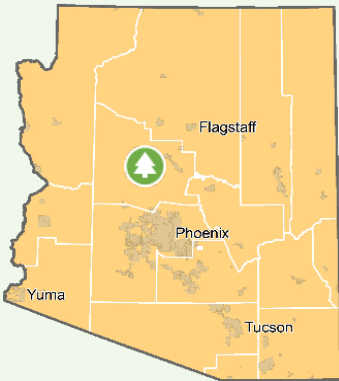
**102 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 504 POINTS -**

# Fremont Cottonwood (*Populus fremontii* ssp. *fremontii*)

This champion Fremont Cottonwood was first nominated in 2012 by David Thornburg and Andy Allgood. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Yavapai County, the tree can be found near the historical town of Skull Valley, Arizona. Fremont Cottonwood is one of the most important riparian tree species in Arizona. This particular tree was planted as a boundary marker over 100 years ago. Native to the western United States, Fremont Cottonwood is a common site on western riparian streams.



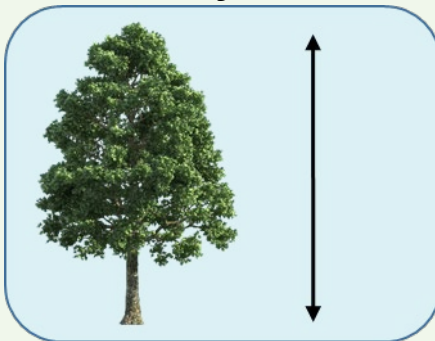
**Circumference**

**560 inches**



**Height**

**102 feet**



**Crown Spread**

**160 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 702 POINTS -**



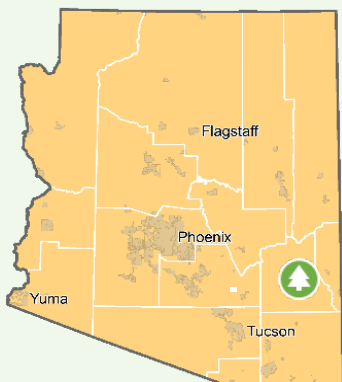
## Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*)

This champion Quaking Aspen was first nominated in 2007 by Mike Hallen. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Graham County, the tree can be found near Riggs Flat Lake on Mt. Graham. Quaking Aspen often forms large clonal patches after a major disturbance such as a fire. In fact, one of the largest organisms on earth is a large clonal patch of Aspen named "Pando". Quaking Aspen has a large range being found throughout the west and northeast United States as well as throughout Canada.



# Arizona's Magnificent Trees

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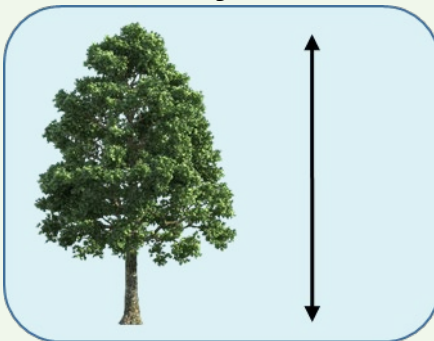
**Circumference**

**152 inches**



**Height**

**130 feet**



**Crown Spread**

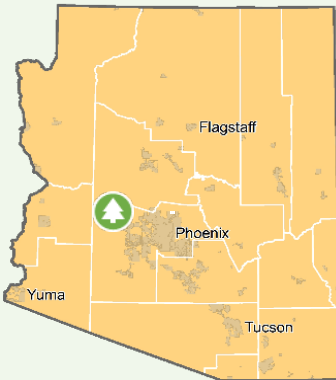
**36 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 291 POINTS -**

## Screwbean Mesquite (*Prosopis pubescens*)

This champion Screwbean Mesquite was first nominated in 2007 by David Thornburg. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Maricopa County, the tree can be found at the Hassayampa River Preserve near Wickenburg, Arizona. Screwbean Mesquite has a twisted bean pod resembling a screw and this bean pod is readily eaten by wildlife and humans alike. Native to the southwest, Screwbean Mesquite prefers damp alkaline soils.



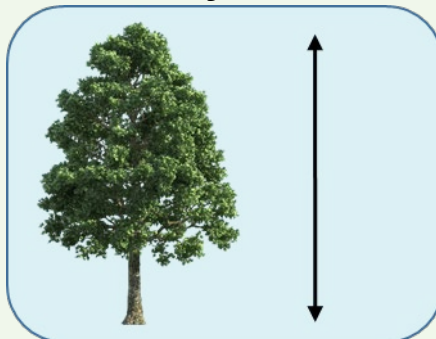
**Circumference**

**43 inches**



**Height**

**24 feet**



**Crown Spread**

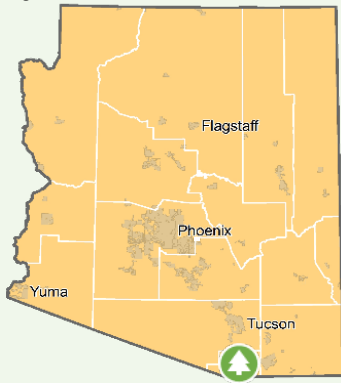
**31 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 75 POINTS -**

## Velvet Mesquite (*Prosopis velutina*)

This champion Velvet Mesquite was first nominated in 1949 by Gilbert Sykes. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Santa Cruz County, the tree can be found near the town of Beyerville, Arizona. Velvet Mesquite is an important desert species that provides food for people and wildlife, shade for other desert species, and fixes nitrogen into the soil. Native to the Chihuahuan, Mojave, and Sonoran deserts, Velvet Mesquite is a commonly planted tree in urban environments and is very drought tolerant.



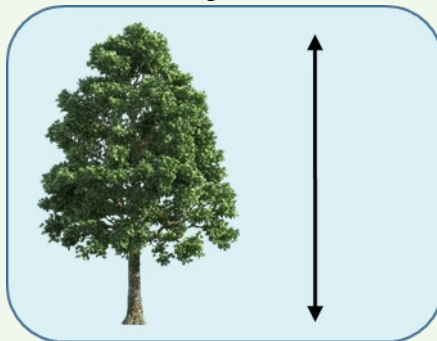
**Circumference**

**196 inches**



**Height**

**46 feet**



**Crown Spread**

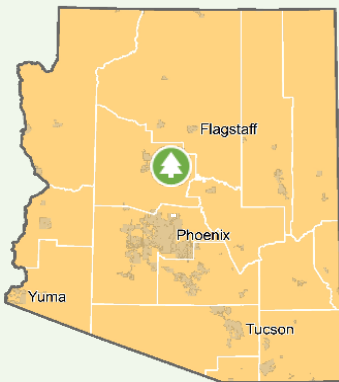
**60 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 257 POINTS -**

## Southwestern Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina* var. *rufula*)

This champion Southwestern Black Cherry was first nominated in 2004 by David Thornburg. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Yavapai County, this tree can be found near Copper Chief Spring on Mingus Mountain. Southwestern Black Cherry produces an edible fruit but all other parts of the tree are toxic and contain varying degrees of cyanide. Black Cherry is found throughout the United States but *Prunus serotina* var. *rufula* is native to Arizona and into northern Mexico.



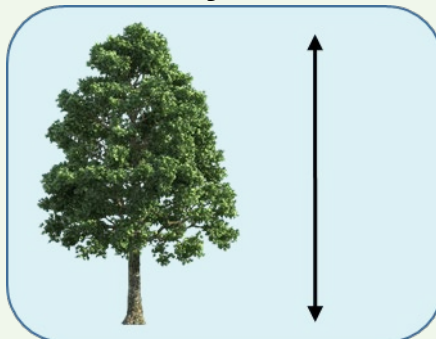
**Circumference**

**136 inches**



**Height**

**66 feet**



**Crown Spread**

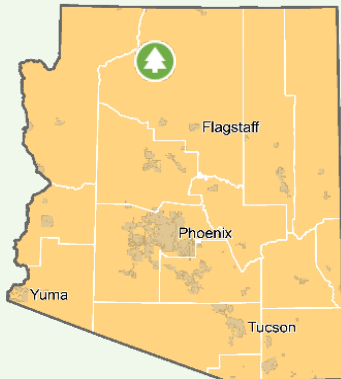
**50 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 215 POINTS -**

## Mexican Cliffrose (*Purshia mexicana*)

This champion Mexican Cliffrose was first nominated in 2007 by Mike Hallen. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Coconino County, the tree can be found overlooking the south rim of the Grand Canyon. Mexican Cliffrose typically grows as a small shrub or bush and the flowers and leaves produce a pleasant fragrance throughout the year. Native throughout the southwest and northern Mexico, Mexican Cliffrose can be found growing on mid-elevation rocky limestone soils.



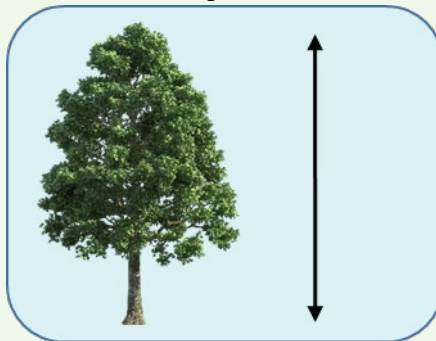
**Circumference**

**37 inches**



**Height**

**22 feet**



**Crown Spread**

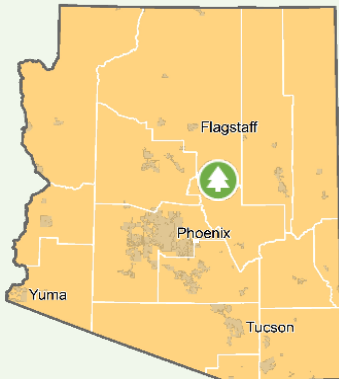
**17 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 63 POINTS -**

## Gambel Oak (*Quercus gambelii*)

This champion Gambel Oak was first nominated in 2003 by David Thornburg. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Coconino County, the tree can be found northeast of Pine, Arizona on the Coconino National Forest. Gambel Oak produces acorns that are eaten by a wide variety of animals and historically by people. Native to the four corners states as well as Nevada, Texas, Wyoming, and northern Mexico, Gambel Oak typically grows in fire-adapted ecosystems.



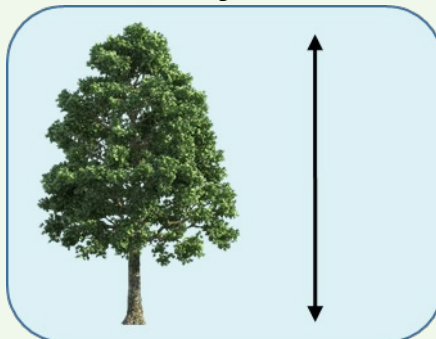
**Circumference**

**218 inches**



**Height**

**106 feet**



**Crown Spread**

**64 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 341 POINTS -**

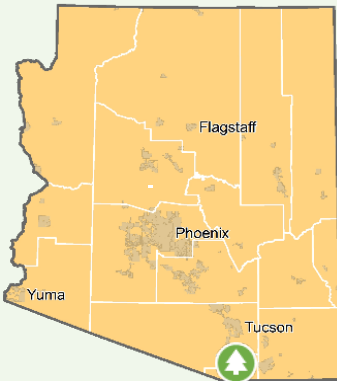
# Silverleaf Oak (*Quercus hypoleucoides*)

This champion Silverleaf Oak was first nominated in 2011 by Mike Hallen. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Santa Cruz County it is located in scenic Madera Canyon south of Tucson, Arizona. Silverleaf Oak can be identified from its long lance like leaf that is typically green on top and white or silver on the underside. Native to southeast Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and northern Mexico, Silverleaf Oak typically grows as a small tree or shrub in moist canyons and on ridges.



## Arizona's Magnificent Trees

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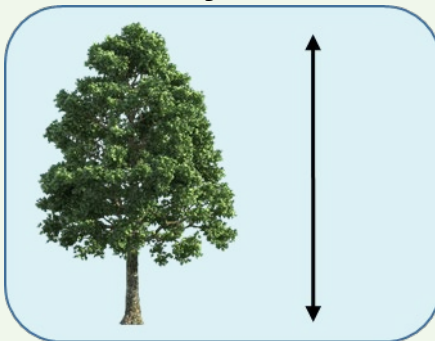
**Circumference**

**135 inches**



**Height**

**57 feet**



**Crown Spread**

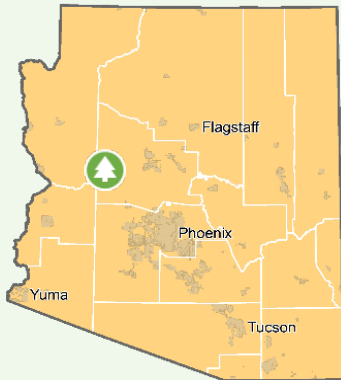
**40 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 202 POINTS -**

## Palmer Oak (*Quercus palmeri*)

This champion Palmer Oak was first nominated in 1995 by Ken Morrow. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Yavapai County, the tree can be found along State Route 93 near Nothing, Arizona. Palmer Oak is a long-lived species, with one clonal cluster in California aged to at least 13,000 years old. Native to southern California, Arizona, western New Mexico, and far northern Mexico, Palmer Oak typically grows as a small tree or shrub and is recognized by its small, stiff, and wavy leaves.



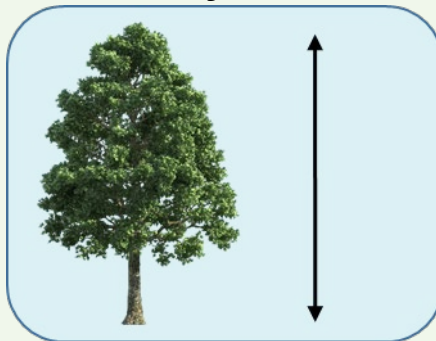
**Circumference**

**68 inches**



**Height**

**40 feet**



**Crown Spread**

**38 feet**

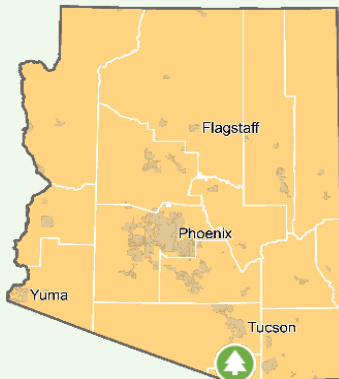


**- TOTAL SCORE: 118 POINTS -**



## Netleaf Oak (*Quercus rugosa*)

This champion Netleaf Oak was first nominated in 2016 by Scott Roederer. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Pima County, the tree can be found in scenic Madera Canyon south of Tucson, Arizona. Netleaf Oak has many common names but the Spanish refer to the oak as “encino quiebra hacha” which translates to “axe-breaking oak”. Primarily a Mexican species, Netleaf Oak has a limited distribution in the United States but can be found in Arizona, New Mexico, and western Texas.



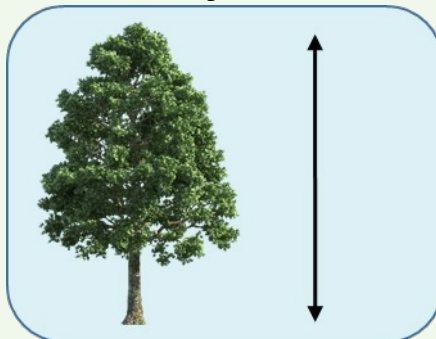
**Circumference**

**92 inches**



**Height**

**54 feet**



**Crown Spread**

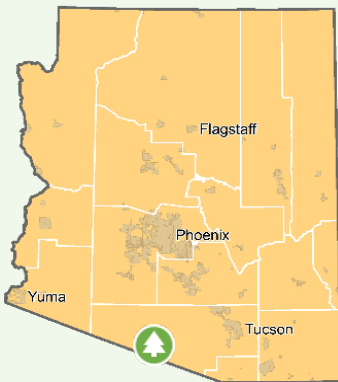
**53 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 159 POINTS -**

## Ajo or Turbinella Oak (*Quercus turbinella* var. *ajoensis*)

This champion Turbinella Oak was first nominated in 1993 by Bob and Glenda Zahner. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Pima County, the tree can be found in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument south of Why, Arizona. Turbinella Oak typically grows as a shrub or small tree and like many other oaks, Turbinella Oak will often hybridize with other oak species making identification difficult. Native to the southwest United States, Turbinella Oak is a common species in chaparral habitat.



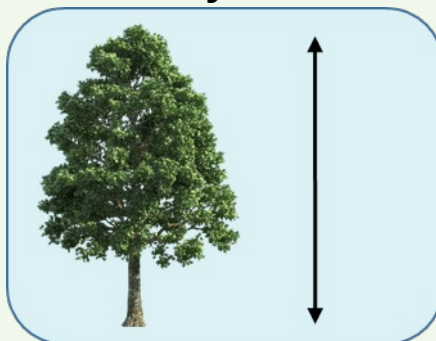
**Circumference**

**66 inches**



**Height**

**30 feet**



**Crown Spread**

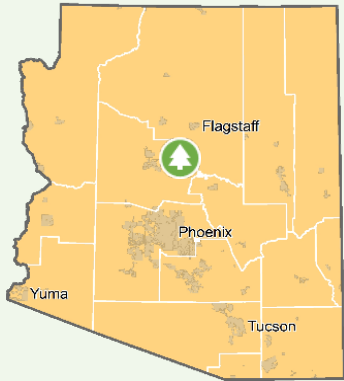
**35 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 105 POINTS -**

# California Buckthorn (*Rhamnus californica*)

This champion California Buckthorn was first nominated in 2011 by David Thornburg. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Yavapai County, the tree can be found on the premises of the Montezuma Well National Monument near Rimrock, Arizona. California Buckthorn also known as California Coffeeberry resembles the Coffeebean plant and the seeds can provide a caffeine-free substitute while the outer berry can be made into jams or jellies. Native to the southwest United States and northwestern Mexico, California Buckthorn typically grows as a multi-stemmed bush or shrub.



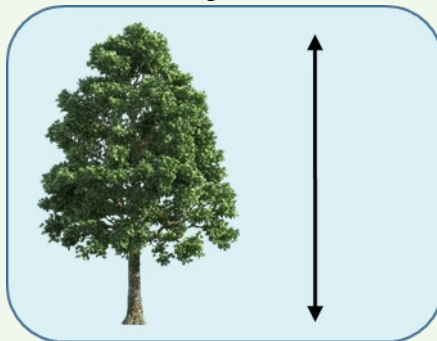
**Circumference**

**42 inches**



**Height**

**18 feet**



**Crown Spread**

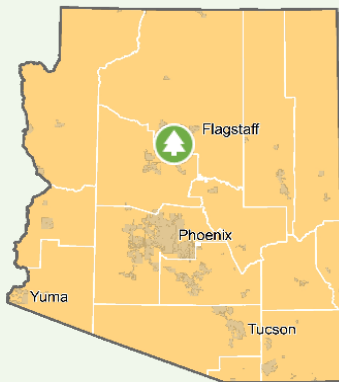
**28 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 67 POINTS -**

# Hollyleaf Buckthorn (*Rhamnus crocea*)

This champion Hollyleaf Buckthorn was first nominated in 2007 by David Thornburg. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Yavapai County, the tree can be found south of Cottonwood, Arizona on the Prescott National Forest. Hollyleaf Buckthorn produces a red berry that is edible to humans but if eaten in excess can turn the skin a reddish tint. Native to the southwestern United States and Baja California of northwestern Mexico, Hollyleaf Buckthorn grows typically as a bush or shrub.



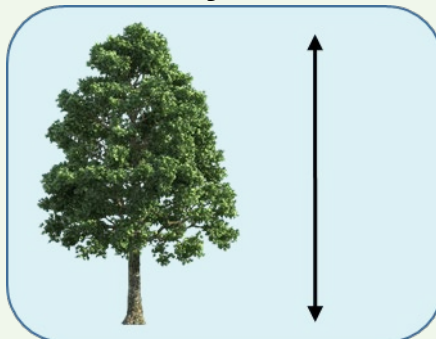
**Circumference**

**52 inches**



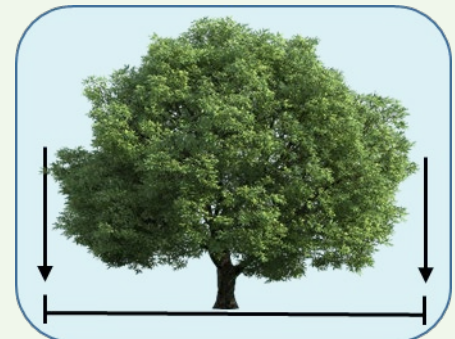
**Height**

**16 feet**



**Crown Spread**

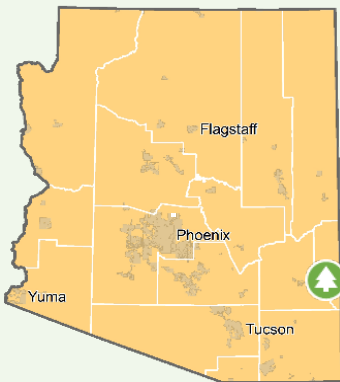
**18 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 73 POINTS -**

## Littleleaf Sumac (*Rhus microphylla*)

This champion Littleleaf Sumac was first nominated in 2007 by David and Judy Thornburg. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Graham County, the tree can be found off U.S. Highway 70 west of Duncan, Arizona. Littleleaf Sumac provides excellent hiding cover for a wide variety of wildlife and the fruit are eaten by a wide variety of animals as well. Native to Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and northern Mexico, Littleleaf Sumac typically grows as a small shrub or bush.



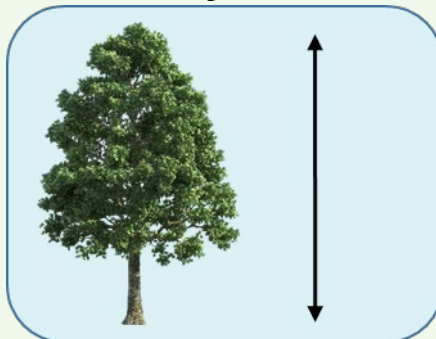
**Circumference**

**13 inches**



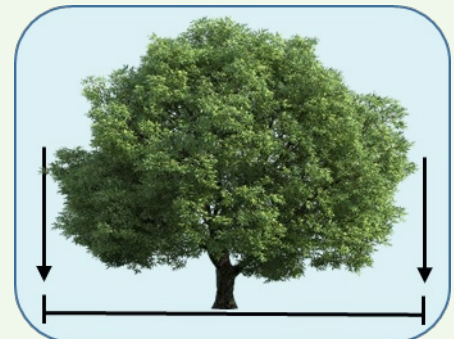
**Height**

**14 feet**



**Crown Spread**

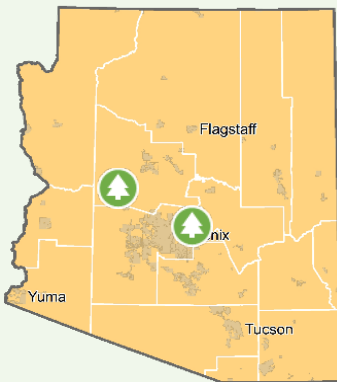
**20 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 32 POINTS -**

## Sugar Sumac (*Rhus ovata*) – Co-Champions

These champion Sugar Sumacs were first nominated in 1995 and 2012 by Ken Morrow and John Carr. They are the largest known trees of their species in the country. Located in Yavapai and Pinal County, the trees can be found near the Peralta Trailhead east of Gold Canyon, Arizona and near Hillside, Arizona. Sugar Sumac is a drought tolerant species that is commonly found in chaparral habitat. Native to California, Arizona and Baja California, Sugar Sumac grows well in dry environments.



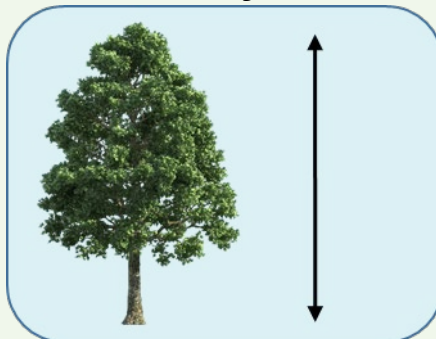
### **Circumference**

**74, 71 inches**



### **Height**

**28, 34 feet**



### **Crown Spread**

**35, 36 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 111, 114 POINTS -**

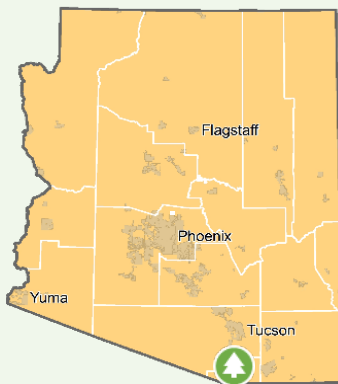
## Mearns Sumac (*Rhus virens* var. *choriophylla*)

This champion Mearns Sumac was first nominated in 2007 by Ken Morrow and Robert Zahner. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Santa Cruz County, the tree can be found near Tumacacori-Carmen, Arizona. Mearns Sumac, similar to other sumacs, typically grows as a small shrub or bush and provides excellent food and shelter for wildlife. Native to southeastern Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and northern Mexico, Mearns Sumac typically grows on rocky hillsides with other chaparral species.



# Arizona's Magnificent Trees

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**PICTURES WANTED!**

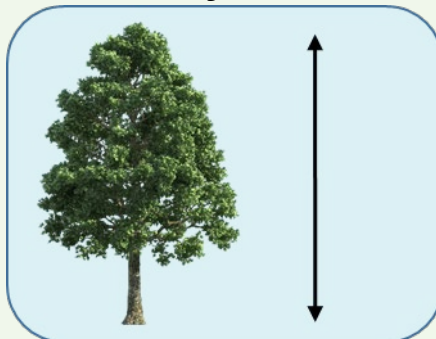
**Circumference**

**21 inches**



**Height**

**20 feet**



**Crown Spread**

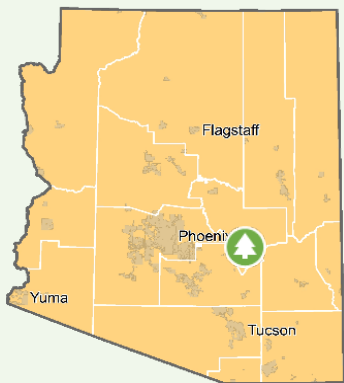
**16 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 45 POINTS -**

# New Mexico Locust (*Robinia neomexicana*)

This champion New Mexico Locust was first nominated in 2018 by Jon Orona. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Gila County, the tree can be found in the Pinal Mountains south of Globe, Arizona. New Mexico Locust commonly grows after disturbances such as fire and can create nearly impassible barriers due to its vigorous root sprouting and thorns found throughout the branches and stem. Native to the southwestern United States, New Mexico Locust is normally a short-lived shrub or tree.



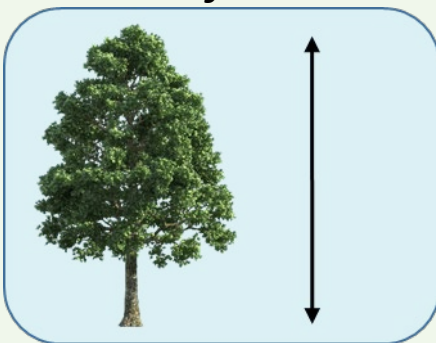
**Circumference**

**71 inches**



**Height**

**38 feet**



**Crown Spread**

**22 feet**

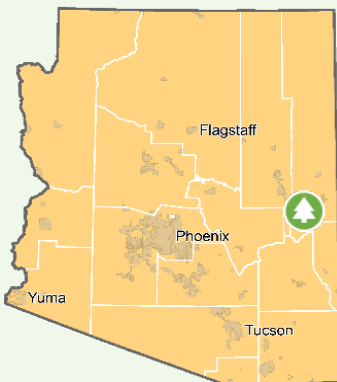


**- TOTAL SCORE: 115 POINTS -**



## Geyer Willow (*Salix geyeriana*)

This champion Geyer Willow was first nominated in 2007 by David Thornburg. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Apache County, the tree can be found near Sunrise Lake on White Mountain Apache Tribal land. Geyer Willow, similar to other willows, provides excellent browse for wildlife throughout the year and is commonly eaten by elk and deer. Native to the western United States, Geyer Willow prefers moist growing conditions such as bogs, meadows, and stream-sides.



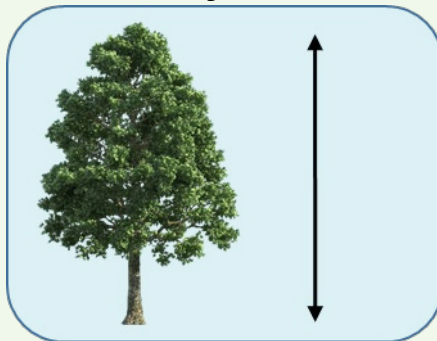
**Circumference**

**10 inches**



**Height**

**13 feet**



**Crown Spread**

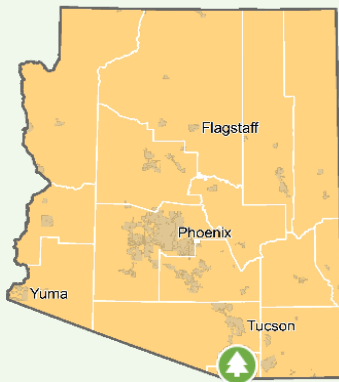
**14 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 27 POINTS -**

# Mexican Elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*)

This champion Mexican Elderberry was first nominated in 2005 by Ken Morrow. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Santa Cruz County, the tree can be found in Patagonia, Arizona. Mexican Elderberry is said to have many different medicinal qualities and the fruit and flowers are often consumed to relieve a wide variety of ailments. Native to Arizona, California, and northern Mexico, Mexican Elderberry typically grows as a small bush or tree.



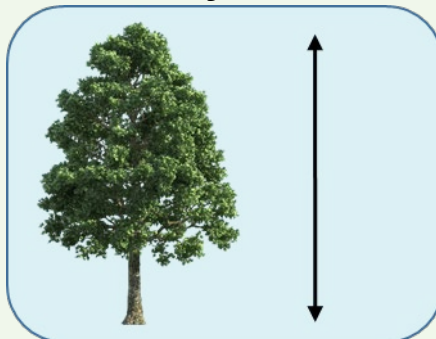
**Circumference**

**95 inches**



**Height**

**41 feet**



**Crown Spread**

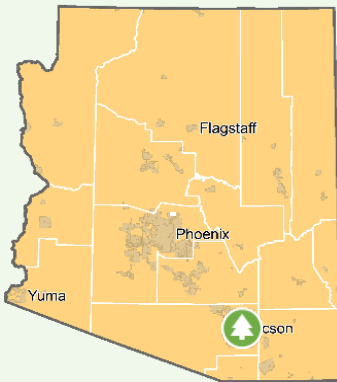
**26 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 143 POINTS -**

# Whitethorn Acacia (*Vachellia constricta*)

This champion Whitethorn Acacia was first nominated in 2016 by Scott Roederer. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Pima County, the tree can be found north of Tucson, Arizona. Whitethorn Acacia, like its name suggests, has white spines along the branches and stem with a bright yellow flower that can be seen in the spring and fall with good moisture. Native to the southwest United States, Whitethorn Acacia grows as a small tree or shrub in desert washes or arroyos.



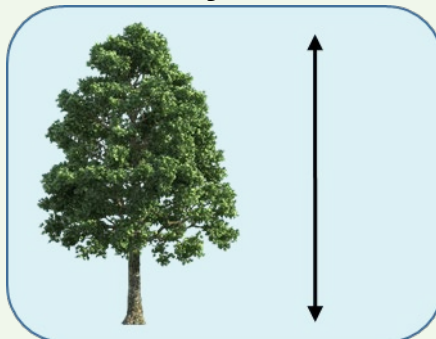
**Circumference**

**13 inches**



**Height**

**17 feet**



**Crown Spread**

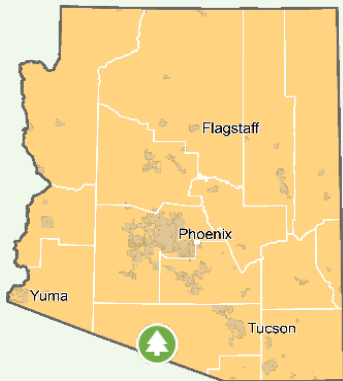
**19 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 35 POINTS -**

# Arizona Rosewood (*Vauquelinia californica*)

This champion Arizona Rosewood was first nominated in 1993 by Bob Zahner. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Pima County, the tree can be found in the Ajo Mountains of the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Arizona Rosewood has beautiful reddish wood but rarely grows large enough to be harvestable. Native to southern Arizona and Baja California, Arizona Rosewood grows as a shrub or small tree and has become a native alternative to the commonly planted oleander.



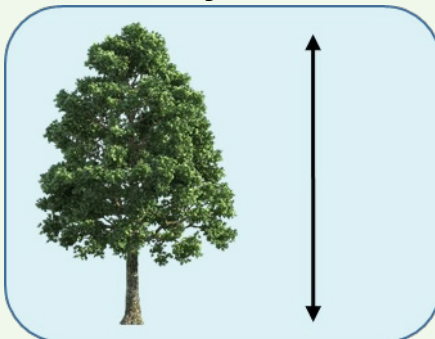
**Circumference**

**78 inches**



**Height**

**47 feet**



**Crown Spread**

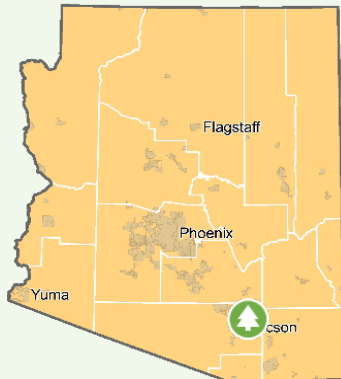
**40 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 135 POINTS -**

## Soaptree Yucca (*Yucca elata*)

This champion Soaptree Yucca was first nominated in 2016 by Clive Probert. It is the largest known yucca of its species in the country. Located in Pima County, the yucca can be found north of Tucson, Arizona. Soaptree Yucca can be used to make a wide assortment of materials. Most notably, the Soaptree Yucca gets its name from the soap like material that is produced in its trunk and roots. Native to Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, Texas, and northern Mexico, Soaptree Yucca typically grows as a small succulent and thrives in dry hot conditions.



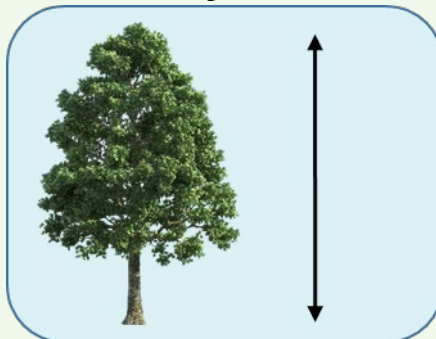
**Circumference**

**33 inches**



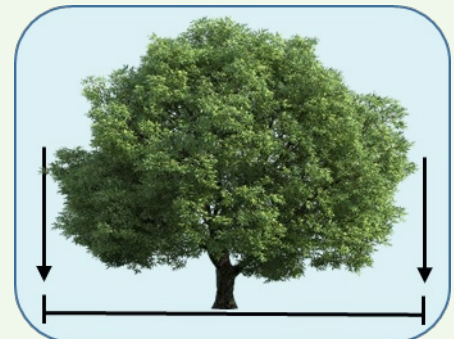
**Height**

**29 feet**



**Crown Spread**

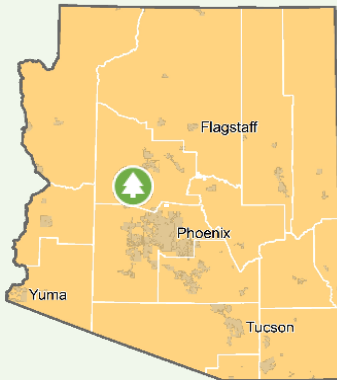
**4 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 63 POINTS -**

## Lotebush (*Ziziphus obtusifolia*)

This champion Lotebush was first nominated in 2012 by David Thornburg. It is the largest known tree of its species in the country. Located in Yavapai County, the tree can be found northwest of Date, Arizona. Lotebush is less favored as browse by herbivores due to its small leaves and sharp thorns but does provide excellent habitat for a wide variety of small mammals, birds, and reptiles. Native to the southwest United States, Lotebush prefers dry mesas and slopes.



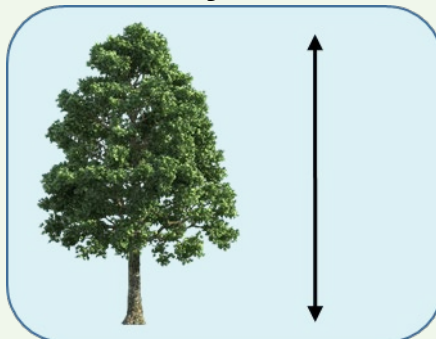
**Circumference**

**28 inches**



**Height**

**17 feet**



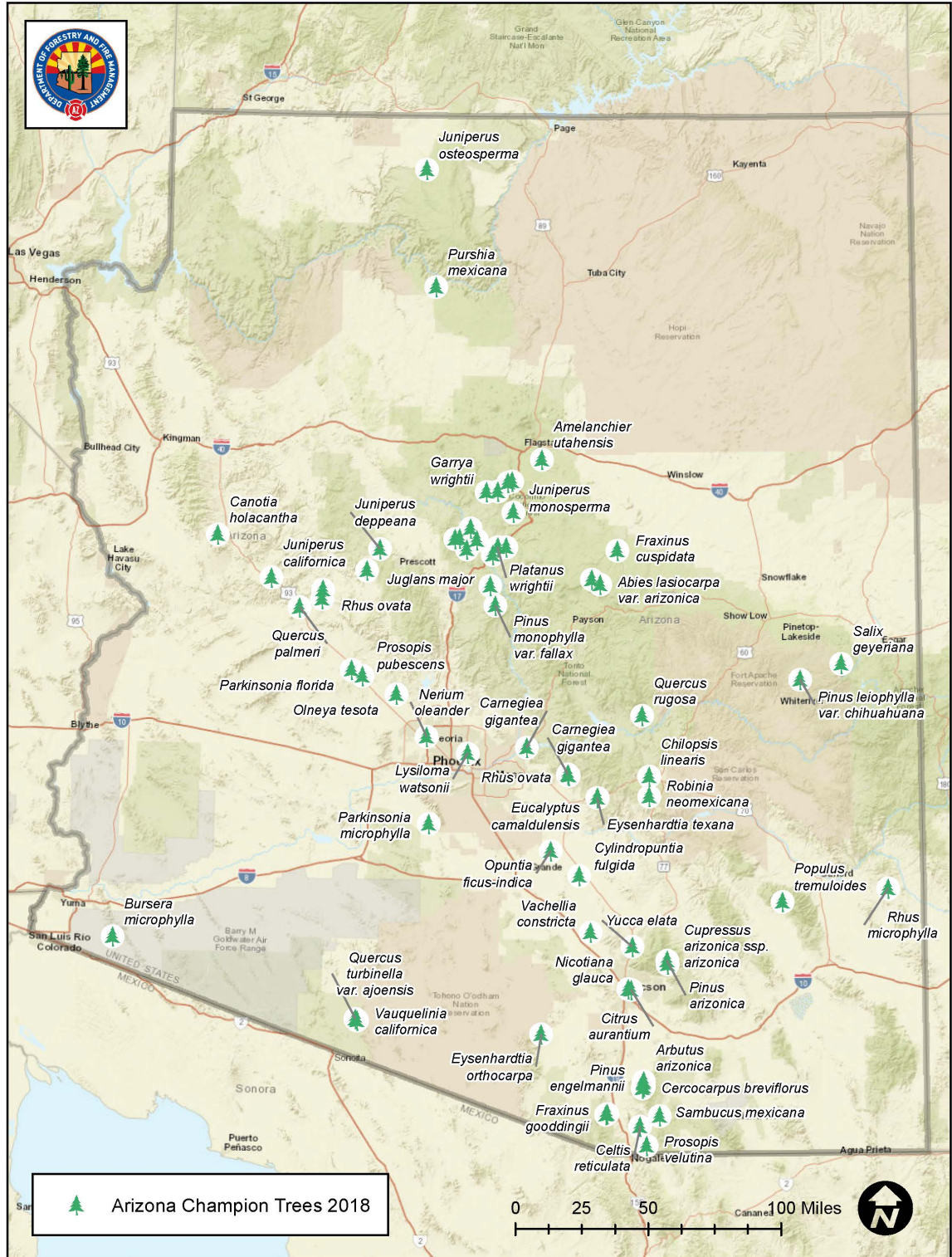
**Crown Spread**

**18 feet**



**- TOTAL SCORE: 50 POINTS -**

# - NATIONAL CHAMPION TREES STATE MAP -



# - NATIONAL CHAMPION TREES INDEX -

Common Name	Scientific Name	Circum. (inches)	Height (feet)	Crown Width (feet)	Nominator(s)
Corkbark Fir	<i>Abies lasiocarpa</i> var. <i>arizonica</i>	205	70	78	George Tallent and Temple Tallent
Gregg's Catclaw	<i>Acacia greggii</i>	74	34	35.5	David Thornburg
Utah Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier utahensis</i>	14	21	25	David Thornburg and Judy Thornburg
Arizona Madrone	<i>Arbutus arizonica</i>	127	40	38	Mike Hallen
Pringle Manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos pringlei</i>	88	19	23	Andy Allgood and David Thornburg
Elephant Tree	<i>Bursera microphylla</i>	40	16	22	Doug Witbeck, Jim Malusa, and Pete Sundt
Crucifixion Thorn	<i>Canotia holacantha</i>	90	32	20	David Thornburg
Saguaro	<i>Carnegiea gigantea</i>	91	46	8	Mike Hallen
Saguaro	<i>Carnegiea gigantea</i>	83	54	15	Joe Orman
Netleaf Hackberry	<i>Celtis reticulata</i>	122	54	71	Ken Morrow and Bill Adler
Hairy Mountain Mahogany	<i>Cercocarpus breviflorus</i>	37	25	20	Robert Zahner and Sid Jackson
Desert Willow	<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	174	45	49	Mitchell Holder
Sour Orange	<i>Citrus aurantium</i>	44	28	24	Judy Nantel and Chris Maloney
Arizona Cypress	<i>Cupressus arizonica</i> ssp. <i>arizonica</i>	244	106	48	James Mielke
Arizona Smooth Cypress	<i>Cupressus arizonica</i> var. <i>glabra</i>	240	78	56	David Thornburg and Harry Untiedt
Jumping Cholla	<i>Cylindropuntia fulgida</i>	35	16	13	Mike Hallen
Longbeak Eucalyptus	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	266	117	119	Scott Roederer
Kidneywood	<i>Eysenhardtia orthocarpa</i>	28	28	20	Ken Morrow



## - NATIONAL CHAMPION TREES INDEX -

Common Name	Scientific Name	Circum. (inches)	Height (feet)	Crown Width (feet)	Nominator(s)
Texas Kidneywood	<i>Eysenhardtia texana</i>	17	27	14	Ken Morrow, Mike Hallen, and Kathryn Stiles
Lowell Ash	<i>Fraxinus anomala</i> var. <i>lowellii</i>	58	33	21	David Thornburg and Harry Untiedt
Fragrant Ash	<i>Fraxinus cuspidata</i>	46	40	37	David Thornburg
Goodding's Ash	<i>Fraxinus gooddingii</i>	25	25	20	Josh Tewksbury
Wright's Silktassel	<i>Garrya wrightii</i>	38	17	19	David Thornburg
Arizona Walnut	<i>Juglans major</i>	215	81	88	David Thornburg
California Juniper	<i>Juniperus californica</i>	157	25	42	David Thornburg
Alligator Juniper	<i>Juniperus deppeana</i>	324	52	70	Mickey Contreras and Richard Contreras
Oneseed Juniper	<i>Juniperus monosperma</i>	130	28	27	David Thornburg
Utah Juniper	<i>Juniperus osteosperma</i>	172	33	50	Brian Jansen
Allthorn	<i>Koeberlinia spinose</i>	27	23	19	Bob Zahner and Glenda Zahner
Littleleaf Lysiloma	<i>Lysiloma watsonii</i>	101	38	48	Ken Morrow
Texas Mulberry	<i>Morus microphylla</i>	228	48	112	George Tallent
Oleander	<i>Nerium oleander</i>	65	30	27	Larry Wright and Russell Gates
Tree Tobacco	<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	18	20	16	Andy Allgood and Marsha Allgood
Desert Ironwood	<i>Olneya tesota</i>	196	45	62	Steve Plath and Julie Plath
Indian Fig	<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>	42	17	17	Mike Hallen
Knowlton Hophornbeam	<i>Ostrya knowltonii</i>	132	40	47	David Thornburg

## - NATIONAL CHAMPION TREES INDEX -

Common Name	Scientific Name	Circum. (inches)	Height (feet)	Crown Width (feet)	Nominator(s)
Blue Palo Verde	<i>Parkinsonia florida</i>	100	40	48	David Thornburg
Yellow Palo Verde	<i>Parkinsonia microphylla</i>	66	29	44	Mike Hallen
Arizona Pine	<i>Pinus arizonica</i>	105	108	60	Bob Zahner and Glenda Zahner
Apache Pine	<i>Pinus engelmannii</i>	127	108	44	Ken Morrow and Robert Zahner
Chihuahua Pine	<i>Pinus leiophylla</i> var. <i>chihuahuana</i>	122	90	34	Ron Miller, Robert Lacapa, and Danny Edwards
Singleleaf Pinyon	<i>Pinus monophylla</i> var. <i>fallax</i>	101	84	45	David Thornburg, Andy Allgood, and Harry Untiedt
Southwestern Ponderosa Pine	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i> var. <i>brachyptera</i>	196	113	45	Tyler Williams
Arizona Sycamore	<i>Platanus wrightii</i>	424	54	102	David Thornburg and Andy Allgood
Fremont Cottonwood	<i>Populus fremontii</i> ssp. <i>fremontii</i>	560	102	160	David Thornburg and Andy Allgood
Quaking Aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	152	130	36	Mike Hallen
Screwbean Mesquite	<i>Prosopis pubescens</i>	43	24	31	David Thornburg
Velvet Mesquite	<i>Prosopis velutina</i>	196	46	60	Gilbert Sykes
Southwestern Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i> var. <i>rufula</i>	136	66	50	David Thornburg
Mexican Cliffrose	<i>Purshia Mexicana</i>	37	22	17	Mike Hallen
Gambel Oak	<i>Quercus gambelii</i>	218	106	64	David Thornburg
Silverleaf Oak	<i>Quercus hypoleucoides</i>	135	57	40	Mike Hallen
Palmer Oak	<i>Quercus palmeri</i>	68	40	38	Ken Morrow
Netleaf Oak	<i>Quercus rugosa</i>	92	54	53	Scott Roederer

## - NATIONAL CHAMPION TREES INDEX -

Common Name	Scientific Name	Circum. (inches)	Height (feet)	Crown Width (feet)	Nominator(s)
Ajo Oak	<i>Quercus turbinella</i> var. <i>ajoensis</i>	66	30	35	Bob Zahner and Glenda Zahner
California Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus californica</i>	42	18	28	David Thornburg
Hollyleaf Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus crocea</i>	52	16	18	David Thornburg
Littleleaf Sumac	<i>Rhus microphylla</i>	13	14	20	David Thornburg and Judy Thornburg
Sugar Sumac	<i>Rhus ovata</i>	74	28	35	Ken Morrow
Sugar Sumac	<i>Rhus ovata</i>	71	34	36	John Carr
Mearns Sumac	<i>Rhus virens</i> var. <i>choriophylla</i>	21	20	16	Ken Morrow and Robert Zahner
New Mexico Locust	<i>Robinia neomexicana</i>	71	38	22	Jon Orona
Geyer Willow	<i>Salix geyeriana</i>	10	13	14	David Thornburg
Mexican Elderberry	<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>	95	41	26	Ken Morrow
Whitethorn Acacia	<i>Vachellia constricta</i>	13	17	19	Scott Roederer
Arizona Rosewood	<i>Vauquelinia californica</i>	78	47	40	Bob Zahner
Soaptree Yucca	<i>Yucca elata</i>	33	29	4	Clive Robert
Lotebush	<i>Ziziphus obtusifolia</i>	28	17	18	David Thornburg

# - WANTED NATIONAL CHAMPION TREE SPECIES -

Common Name	Scientific Name
Blackbrush Acacia	<i>Acacia rigidula</i>
Twisted Acacia	<i>Acacia tortuosa</i>
Canyon Maple	<i>Acer grandidentum</i>
Mexican Bird of Paradise	<i>Caesalpinia mexicana</i>
Red Bird of Paradise	<i>Caesalpinia pulcherrima</i>
Papaya	<i>Carica papaya</i>
Crucifixion-thorn	<i>Castela emoryi</i>
Key Lime	<i>Citrus aurantifolia</i>
Sweet Orange	<i>Citrus sinensis</i>
Russian Olive	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>
Southwestern Coralbean	<i>Erythrina flabelliformis</i>
Desert Olive	<i>Forestiera shrevei</i>
Florida Mayten	<i>Maytenus phyllanthoides</i>
Bigelow Nolina	<i>Nolina bigelovii</i>
Avocado	<i>Persea americana</i>
Border Pinyon	<i>Pinus discolor</i>
Southwestern White Pine	<i>Pinus strobiformis</i>
Western Honey Mesquite	<i>Prosopis glandulosa</i> var. <i>torreyana</i>
Siberian Apricot	<i>Prunus armeniaca</i>
Arizona White Oak	<i>Quercus arizonica</i>
Toumey Oak	<i>Quercus toumeyi</i>
Sonoran Oak	<i>Quercus viminea</i>
Birchleaf Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus betulifolia</i>
Castorbean	<i>Ricinus communis</i>

## - WANTED NATIONAL CHAMPION TREE SPECIES -

Common Name	Scientific Name
Bebb Willow	<i>Salix bebbiana</i>
Bonpland Willow	<i>Salix bonplandiana</i>
Narrowleaf Willow	<i>Salix exigua</i>
Arroyo willow	<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>
Yellow Willow	<i>Salix lutea</i>
Brazil Peppertree	<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>
Chinese Tamarisk	<i>Tamarix chinensis</i>
French Tamarisk	<i>Tamarix gallica</i>
Yellow-elder	<i>Tecoma stans</i>
Joshua-tree	<i>Yucca brevifolia</i>
Schott Yucca	<i>Yucca shottii</i>


If you see a tree not listed that you believe should be on the Wanted National Champion Tree Species list please contact the Arizona's Magnificent Trees Coordinator at [UCF@dffm.az.gov](mailto:UCF@dffm.az.gov). Arizona's Magnificent Trees welcomes all tree nominations but only certain species are eligible for the National Registry. National Champion Tree submissions are subject to the rules and guidelines developed by American Forests. Please visit [americanforests.org](http://americanforests.org) for more information. Trees not listed in the list of acceptable national registry trees can be nominated as state champion trees.



# - CHAMPION TREE NOMINATION FORM -

Become a Champion Tree Hunter and nominate a tree today! Throughout Arizona, champion trees are waiting to be discovered and recognized for their enormity. All that is needed to nominate a tree are tree species, circumference, height, and crown width as well as a documentation photograph. For more information about how to measure a champion tree visit [Americanforest.org](http://Americanforest.org) or see the guidance on the back of the Arizona's Magnificent Trees nomination form.





**Arizona's  
Magnificent Trees**

**Tree Nomination Form**

Check One:  Champion Tree  Witness Tree  Heritage Tree      DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**TREE INFORMATION**  
 Common Name/ Scientific Name: \_\_\_\_\_ GPS Coordinates: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Height (ft): \_\_\_\_\_ Trunk Circumference (in): \_\_\_\_\_ Crown Spread (ft): \_\_\_\_\_ Age (yrs): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Health:  Excellent  Good  Fair  Poor  
 Location:  Public Land  Private Land  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments (Please include exact directions to locate tree):  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**OWNER INFORMATION** (For trees on private land)  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOMINATOR INFORMATION**  Same as Owner  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEASURER INFORMATION**  Same as Owner  Same as Nominator  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**PERMISSION TO PUBLISH**  
 Picture(s)  Exact Location\*  Regional Location\*  Additional Information\*\*  
 \*Publishing the exact location will allow the public to visit the tree at any time. Publishing only the regional location will list only the city/county that the tree is located in.

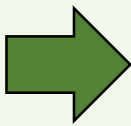
**Owner Signature:**  
 By signing above, I give permission to the Arizona State Forestry Division, the Arizona Community Tree Council, and the Arizona Native Plant Society to publish the information checked above to use in publications (online and print materials) and for promotions.

**\*\*ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**  
 Please attach a current photograph of the tree, along with any additional information. Champion Tree selections are based on the combined height, crown spread, and trunk circumference of the tree. The largest tree of its species in Arizona will be selected as a Champion. Witness Tree nominations require proof of the tree in its same location on or before Arizona's Statehood Day, February 14, 1912. Heritage Tree nominations require a summary of the tree's cultural significance.

**MAIL TO**  
 AZ Department of Forestry and Fire Management  
 Urban & Community Forestry  
 1550 West Washington, Suite 100  
 Phoenix, AZ 85007-5935

**PHONE:** 602-771-1400  
**FAX:** 602-771-1421  
**WEBSITE:** [www.dffm.az.gov](http://www.dffm.az.gov)





**EMAIL TO**  
 UCF@dffm.az.gov



**MEASURING GUIDELINES**  
 AmericanForests.org

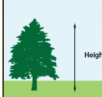
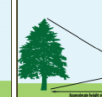
**TRUNK CIRCUMFERENCE**

1. Measure the distance around the trunk of the tree, in inches, at 4 1/2 feet above ground level. This point is called the diameter breast height (dbh).
2. If the tree forks at or below 4 1/2 feet, record the smallest trunk circumference below the lowest fork. Record the height at which the measurement was taken. Trees should be considered separate if the circumference measurement below the lowest fork places the measurement on the ground.
3. If the tree is on a slope, measure 4 1/2 feet up the trunk on the high and low sides of the slope. The dbh is the average between both points. If the tree is on a steep slope, take the measurement at 4 1/2 feet above the midpoint of the trunk.
4. If the tree is leaning, measure the circumference at 4 1/2 feet along the axis of the trunk. Make sure the measurement is taken at a right (90 degree) angle to the trunk.



**TREE HEIGHT**

1. Find a straight stick or ruler.
2. Hold the stick vertically at arm's length, making sure that the length of the stick above your hand equals the distance from your hand to your eye.
3. Walk backward away from the tree. Stop when the stick above your hand is the same length as the tree.
4. Measure the distance from the tree to where you are standing. Record that measurement to the closest foot.

**AVERAGE CROWN SPREAD**

1. Measure the widest crown spread, which is the greatest distance between any two points along the tree's drip line. The drip line is the area defined by the outermost circumference of the tree's canopy where water drips to the ground.
2. Turn the axis of measurement 90 degrees and find the narrow crown spread.
3. Calculate the average of the two crown spread measurements using this formula: (wide spread + narrow spread) / 2 = average crown spread

## - ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS -



Thank you to all the volunteers, coordinators, and members of the public who have put in their time and effort in locating these amazing champion trees to be recognized in Arizona's Magnificent Trees Program. This Program would not be possible without your hard work and dedication. Funding provided by the USDA Forest Service.



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