

*Carpinus caroliniana* 'Firespire', The American hornbeam is a native forest understory tree, useful for shady landscapes and naturalized woodland gardens. Offering a kaleidoscope of color throughout the year, new leaves emerge reddish-purple, change to dark green, then turn yellow to orange-red in the fall. In winter, the tree's fluted blue-gray bark with long, sinewy ridges make it noticeable in the landscape. Firespire is a narrow, upright cultivar with improved red-orange fall color; 20 feet high by 10 feet wide that can be admired in our shady picnic area.



Morton Arboretum

*Cedrus deodora*, known as Deodar cedar, is an evergreen conifer shaped like a pyramid when young. It matures into a flat-topped tree with broad-spreading horizontal branching. Deodar cedar is graceful with drooping branchlets and branch tips. Lower branches typically remain on the tree as it ages, often touching the ground. This is a medium-sized tree that typically matures to 40-50' tall in its first 25 years. The dark grayish needles appear in clusters and the form reminiscent of a Dr. Suess story. Our Arboretum's young specimen will be situated in the Children's Garden.



Missouri Botanical Garden

*Diospyros kaki* 'Giant Fuyu' is a Japanese Persimmon commonly called kaki. It is a deciduous tree with a rounded spreading crown that typically grows to 20-30' tall, noted not only for its edible fruits but also for its excellent ornamental features. Long, oval leaves emerge yellowish-green in spring, mature to glossy green in summer and turn reddish-gold in fall. Fragrant, non-showy flowers bloom in late spring; creamy-white female flowers appear alone and the pink-toned male flowers appearing in clusters of three. Edible persimmon fruits mature to bright orange in late fall, and may stay on the tree even after winter leaf drop. 'Fuyu' is a popular non-astringent variety with mild flavored and sweet fruit. Kaki can be found as genesis for the new Food Tree Collection at the Arboretum between the Japanese Garden and the native plant area



Wikipedia

*Diospyros virginiana* 'Magic Fountain' Persimmon is the native cousin to kaki. It is one of the easiest trees to identify in winter because of its distinctive thick, dark gray bark that is broken into rectangular blocks. Magic Fountain leaves are glossy dark green and cascade in keeping with fountain namesake. Plants are usually dioecious (separate male and female trees), but some trees have perfect flowers. The native edible persimmon fruits are smaller than its Asian cousin and are quite astringent when green but sweet when ripe. Fruits are commonly used in syrups, jellies, ice creams or pies, but are too soft for commercial shipping and sale. Persimmon leaves can be used to make teas, and the extremely hard wood has been used to make billiard cues and golf club heads. Find this specimen in the native garden area.



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*Metasequoia glyptostroboides* 'Ogon' Gold Rush or Golden Dawn Redwood is a deciduous, coniferous tree that grows in a conical shape to 100' tall. It is related to bald cypress (*Taxodium*) and redwood (*Sequoia*). As the tree matures, the trunk broadens at the base and develops attractive and sometimes elaborate fluting. Bark on mature trees is often deeply textured. 'Gold Rush' is a cultivar that features soft, feathery foliage that is distinctively golden-yellow throughout summer. Foliage gradually turns orange-brown in fall. Slower growing than the species, trees will typically rise to 10-15' tall over the first 10 years and eventually mature to 70'+. Dawn redwood is known to have existed as many as 50,000,000 years ago as determined by fossil records; our young specimen can be found near the Japanese Garden.



Missouri Botanical Garden

*Nyssa sylvatica* 'Green Gable' Black Gum or black tupelo is a native to Eastern North America. It is a slow grower, reaching a height of 60'+ with a spread of 25'. The bark is light grey and deeply furrowed. The spring flowering habit that is polygamodioecious, meaning some plants have mostly male flowers while others have mostly female flowers, with most plants having a few perfect flowers. This honeybee nectar source is responsible for the prized Tupelo honey, and the berries are enjoyed by thrushes and other native wildlife. The tree's beautiful fall color and tolerance of wet soils make this a good specimen to display in the Arboretum's Camellia garden area.



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*Oxydendrum arboreum*, Sourwood is best grown in acidic, moist, organically rich, well-drained soils in full sun. This tree tolerates part shade with diminished flowering and fall color, but is intolerant of drought and urban pollution. A deciduous native understory tree, it is commonly found on rocky wooded slopes in the Appalachian Mountains in combination with acidic soil-loving azaleas and rhododendrons. In an urban landscape it typically grows 20-25' tall with a straight, slender trunk and narrow oblong crown. Finely-toothed, glossy green leaves have a sour taste and produce consistently excellent fall color of crimson red. Waxy, white flowers droop in early summer and give way to dry capsules that ripen to silver-gray in the fall providing ornamental interest into the winter. Honeybees like the flowers, and Sourwood honey is a highly prized local product



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*Pistacia chinensis*, Chinese Pistache grows in moist, organically rich, well-drained soils in full sun. Tolerant of heat and drought, proper pruning in early years is necessary to create a symmetrical tree with good form. It is a small deciduous tree that typically grows to 35' tall with an oval rounded crown. Dark green leaves with leaflets are aromatic when bruised, and fall color is often in shades of yellow, orange and red. The drupes are inedible; *Pistacia vera* produces the edible pistachio nuts. Gray-brown bark peels to reveal salmon inner bark, and you can find this tree near the walkway close to the Arboretum's herb garden.



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*Quercus alba*, White Oak grows to 50-80' tall in cultivation, preferring rich, moist, acidic, well-drained loamy soil in full sun. It has a pyramid shape in youth and matures into a large tree with a thick trunk and wide-spreading, rounded crown. Its bark becomes shaggy as it ages. Its acorns feed wildlife; its wood is of great commercial value. This majestic oak will be added to the picnic area to eventually provide shade again, an opportunity offered by 2018's hurricane Florence.



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*Taxodium distichum var. imbricarium*, commonly called pond cypress, is a native deciduous conifer. It is most often found on the peripheries of ponds and lakes, hence the common name. It is very similar in form and habit to the common bald cypress, *Taxodium distichum*. Pond cypress is generally a smaller and more narrow tree. Bark is gray-brown to red-brown, and its deciduous leaves are arranged in a spiral, changing from green to orange-brown in fall. The tree is best grown in average, medium to wet soils in full sun. The Arboretum's pond cypress will be found near the proposed carnivorous plant wetland garden.



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*Styrax japonicus* 'Marley's Pink Parasol' or Japanese Snowbell is a compact, deciduous flowering tree with horizontal branching and a rounded crown. It typically grows to 30' tall and wide and is noted for its May-June pendulous clusters of bell-shaped, waxy white flowers. Pendant flower clusters are easily visible because of the upward posture of the foliage. Flowers give way to greenish-brown, olive-shaped drupes that often persist into late autumn. Gray bark fissures on older branches reveal orange inner bark, attractive in winter. Leaves of medium to deep green leaves may sometimes turn yellow to red in the fall. This tree will be an addition to our new Cape Fear Shade Garden, located behind the dry river bed and footbridge.



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*Cercis x 'Carolina Sweetheart'* Redbud is a cultivar of the native deciduous, often multi-trunked understory tree with a rounded crown that typically matures to 20-30' tall with a slightly larger spread. The Carolina Sweetheart™ provides color with pink flowers in the spring followed by emergent purple leaves changing to various shades of white, hot pink, and green. This special redbud will provide spring color in the new Cape Fear Shade Garden.



NC Cooperative Extension

*Edgeworthia chrysantha* 'Snow Cream', commonly called paperbush, is a deciduous suckering shrub that typically grows to 4-6' tall and as wide. It is native to woodland areas in the Himalayas and China. Dark green on top, the leaf undersides are gray-green beneath and are crowded near the branch ends. Tiny, tubular yellow flowers are compacted into dense, rounded, umbrella-shaped flower heads. Flower buds begin to form in late summer each year, overwinter on the bare stems and burst into bloom from late February to early April before the new leaves emerge. Silvery flower buds and brown branching are ornamentally attractive in the winter. Needing protection from hot afternoon sun, our paperbush will be situated in the new Cape Fear Shade Garden.



Keifer Nursery

*Salix caprea* 'Pendula', Weeping Pussy Willow is native to Europe and Asia. It is a large shrub or small tree that typically grows to 12-25' tall and to 15' wide. It has escaped cultivation and naturalized in parts of Eastern North America. This is a dioecious species (male and female catkins appearing on separate trees) that many consider to be the best of the "pussy willows". Before the foliage emerges in late winter, male trees produce a showy display of catkins (1-2" long) that are pinkish gray and woolly. Female trees produce smaller greenish catkins. Leaves are dark green above and fuzzy gray beneath. Look for this pussy willow in the parking gardens.



[Bountiful Gardens](#)

*Salix* x 'Scarlet Curls' Willow is a vigorous, small tree with golden brown branches and twisted scarlet red stems spiraling upwards. The red color intensifies after the first frost. Leaves are somewhat curled. A form of corkscrew willow, the decorative cut branches are used in floral arrangements. 'Scarlet Curls' likes full sun and adapts to a wide range of soil types. This fairly fast growing tree can be found in the Arboretum parking gardens.



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