

# The Dorothy Clive Garden Tree Walk

## Symbols



Tree trail route



Toilets



Steps



Parking



Disabled parking



Tearoom





# Tree Walk

the Dorothy Clive  
Garden  
www.dorothyclivegarden.co.uk

This self-guided walk takes you past some of the noteworthy trees in the Dorothy Clive Garden, and provides a bit more information about this eclectic mix of topiary. All trees are numbered with the correlating number on the map.



1

**Prunus x yedoensis 'Tsubame' – Japanese flowering Cherry** with a spreading habit, at its best in April when it covers itself all over in white blossom. Ours is a very fine and mature specimen. Cherry blossom is the national flower of Japan where it has been revered for centuries. To the Japanese, cherry blossoms are a timeless metaphor for human existence. Blooming season is powerful, glorious and intoxicating, but tragically short-lived – a visual reminder that our lives, too, are fleeting. The word 'Tsubame' means 'Swallow (bird)' in Japanese.



2

**Metasequoia glyptostroboides – Dawn Redwood** – A deciduous conifer and somewhat of a horticultural curiosity considered to be extinct until mid-20th century when living specimens were found growing in south-central China. This species is endangered in the wild but has proven to be a popular and fast-growing tree in gardens and arboreta all over the world. Metasequoia introductions to the British Isles are some of the oldest trees in existence outside their native range.



3

**Taxodium distichum – Swamp Cypress** – Another deciduous conifer native to SE USA. It tolerates an astounding variety of growing conditions including waterlogged habitats where it will form specialised roots called pneumatophores that help with oxygen intake. It is one of few conifers that display brilliant autumn colour, in this case russets, pinks and reds.



4

**Gymnocladus dioica – Kentucky Coffee Tree** – A rarely seen tree with distinctive bipinnate leaves hailing from the Mid-west USA. One of the last trees in the Dorothy Clive Garden to come into leaf. It is believed to be an evolutionary anachronism as the tough, leathery seed pods are too difficult for many animals to chew through (in addition to being poisonous) and they are too heavy for either wind or water dispersal. It is thus believed that the tree would have been browsed upon by now-extinct mammoths and mastodons which ate the pods and nicked the seeds with their large teeth, aiding in germination. This behaviour is seen among African elephants eating Fabaceae relatives in Africa. Because of this, its prehistoric range may have been much larger than it has been in historical times. Today, in the wild, it only grows well in wetlands, and it is thought that only in such wet conditions can the seed pods rot away to allow germination in the absence of large herbivores.



5

**Parrotia persica – Persian Ironwood** – An interesting spreading tree native to northern Iran. Not unlike its relatives, the witch-hazels, it flowers on bare wood very early in the season, sometimes as soon as January. The flowers are very curious, small, red and cup shaped and very popular with bees at the time of year when there is generally little for them on offer. The leaves turn most brilliant hues of yellow, orange and red in the autumn – it is one of the best trees for autumn colour in the garden. The name ironwood alludes to the almost indestructible nature of its dense timber, in its native range it is widely used in construction of bridges, telephone poles and tool handles.



6

**Cedrus deodora – Himalayan Cedar** – A species of Cedar native to the Western Himalayas in Eastern Afghanistan, Northern Pakistan and India. It is a large evergreen, coniferous tree reaching 40 -50m tall with a trunk up to 3m in diameter. It has a conical crown with level branches and drooping branchlets. Largely grown as an ornamental tree for its drooping foliage. The wood is used as a building material because of its durability and fine, close grain. It was used to construct religious temples and for constructing the houseboats of Srinagar, Kashmir.

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The walk continues into the quarry...



7

**Liriodendron tulipifera – Tulip Tree** – One of the largest North American natives, a fast-growing hardwood tree used extensively in its native range for termite resistant timber. The leaves are a most attractive shape reminiscent of a blunt-tipped maple. In late spring it produces numerous large, green, upward facing, tulip shaped flowers that are very popular with bees and yield large quantity of nectar. It is one of the most important honey producing trees of North America. In the Autumn the leaves change from green to brilliant yellow. There are numerous cultivars available and we have a young fastigiata form of this lovely tree planted in the arboretum part of the garden.



8

**Trochodendron aralioides – Wheel Tree** – Another horticultural curiosity native to Japan, Korea and Taiwan, this is a sole living representative of the genus with all the others being extinct, thus we would call the genus Trochodendron 'monotypic'. It forms a medium size evergreen tree that is just hardy enough to be grown in our latitude. The internal structure of the wood is curious because it lacks vessel elements, a very unusual occurrence amongst angiosperms.



9

**Acer griseum – Paperbark maple** – Native to central China, this is a very hardy, small to medium sized tree of which we have numerous examples in the Quarry and Winter Garden. It is widely grown as an ornamental plant mainly for its translucent, peeling, papery bark that persists on the tree and makes it particularly attractive during the winter months. Besides this feature, just as many other maples do, it turns into a vibrant autumn spectacle with the foliage acquiring orange, red and pink hues.



10

**Stewartia pseudocamelia – Deciduous Camelia** – Native to Japan and Korea this is a stunning tree of small to medium size best grown in consistently moist organic soils with modicum of shelter. It is particularly noteworthy for its beautiful white flowers reminiscent of small single Camelia blooms that are produced quite late in the season, generally between the months of June and August. The bark of this tree gradually exfoliates in patches revealing beautiful, mottled, camouflaged pattern.



11

**Morus nigra – Black Mulberry** – A small, very long lived, architectural, deciduous tree with a wide, spreading head, becoming gnarled with age. Growing to 12m tall by 15m broad. A native of North and South America, Africa and Asia. The edible fruit is dark purple when ripe and 2-3cm long. It is richly flavoured similar to a red Mulberry. The black Mulberry was imported in to Britain in the 17th century in the hope that it would be useful in the cultivation of silkworms. This was unsuccessful as silkworms prefer white mulberries but has left a legacy of large, old trees in many country house gardens.



12

**Ginkgo biloba – Maidenhair Tree** – Native to China, this is the only surviving relic of a whole group of plants that arose hundreds of millions of years ago and that were very prevalent when the dinosaurs roamed the Earth. Botanically speaking it is really one of a kind but despite its appearance it is more closely related to conifers. It has been known to have numerous medicinal uses that have been exploited over centuries, perhaps the most widely known being the memory-boosting properties. It is an incredibly long lived and hard-wearing tree that will tolerate a wide range of conditions, however the most powerful testament to its tenacity can be found in the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Very few living things survived the nuclear blast on 6th August 1945. The 6 Ginkgo trees growing in the worst affected area were severely damaged and charred but all of them recovered and are still alive and thriving today.