

2024 MGV Training Tree Identification Walk

Tree Identification

Numbers correspond to the numbers on the map.

1. *Cornus* x 'Rutgan', **Stellar Pink Dogwood**. Small spring-flowering tree with pink flowers hybridized from *Cornus florida* x *Cornus kousa*. It is a small deciduous tree with a dense, upright habit. It has a uniform width from top to bottom, typically maturing to 15-20' tall and as wide. Flowers bloom in spring. The true dogwood flowers are actually tiny, yellowish green and insignificant, being compacted into button-like clusters. However, each flower cluster is surrounded by four showy, petal-like, pink bracts which open flat, giving the appearance of a single, large, 3-5" diameter, 4-petaled, pink flower. Floral bracts on this cultivar are rounded and overlapping. Oval to elliptic, dark green leaves (4-6" long) turn attractive shades of purple-red in fall. STELLAR PINK is sterile and does not produce fruit.
2. *Betula nigra*, **River Birch** (native). A native birch with distinctive cinnamon-brown exfoliating bark, this tree is more heat and disease resistant than the other birches. It is not affected by bronze birch borer. Height: 40-70'.
3. *Ulmus americana*, **American Elm** (native). The classic, majestic shade tree of our villages and countryside, with arching vase shaped crown, elms have been devastated by Dutch elm disease. Newer resistant varieties are now being planted. Height: 80-100'.
4. *Fagus sylvatica* ' , **European Beech** (Europe). Cultivated tree with a stout trunk and a dense, upright oval to rounded spreading crown; producing edible beechnuts. Height: up to 160'.
5. *Quercus rubra*, **Red Oak** (native). Large tree with a rounded crown of stout, spreading branches. The northernmost eastern oak, it is also the most important lumber species of oak. Most are used for flooring, furniture, millwork, railroad cross-ties, fence posts, pilings and pulp- wood. One of the most rapidly growing oaks, it transplants easily, is hearty in city conditions, and endures cold. Height: 60-90'.
6. *Quercus alba*, **White Oak** (native). The classic Eastern Oak, with wide spreading branches and a rounded crown. The trunk is irregularly divided into spreading, often horizontal, stout branches. Called "Stave Oak" because the wood is outstanding in making tight barrels for liquids. In Colonial times the wood was important in ship building. Height: 80-100' or more.
7. *Acer saccharum*, **Sugar Maple** (native). Large tree with a rounded, dense crown and striking, multi-colored foliage in autumn. Maples, particularly Sugar Maple, are among the leading furniture woods. The boiled concentrated sap is the commercial source of maple sugar and syrup, a use colonists learned from Native Americans. Each tree yields between 5 and 60 gallons of sap per year. About 32 gallons of sap make one gallon of syrup or 4 1/2 pounds of sugar. Height: 70-100'.
8. *Quercus prinus*, **Chestnut Oak** (native). Large tree with a broad, open, irregular crown. Because of its high tannin content, the bark formerly was used for tanning leather. The wood is marketed as white oak. Height: 60-80'.

9. *Carya glabra*, **Pignut Hickory** (native). A medium to large, deciduous tree with a straight trunk and rounded crown. It is primarily native to hillsides and ridges in somewhat dry soils, but may also be found in some moist soils. Height 50-80'.

10. *Nyssa sylvatica*, **Black Tupelo** (native). Native medium sized shade tree grows in woods and swampy areas. Difficult to transplant, its leaves display brilliant autumn colors. Height: 60-80'.

11. *Pinus resinosa*, **Red Pine** (native). A medium sized tree, the leaves are soft and flexible evergreen needles, in clusters of two, slender, 4"-6" long, dark green borne in dense tufts at the ends of branchlets. Height 70-115'.

12. *Larix laricina*, **American Larch** (native). A native cone-bearing, deciduous tree with a straight trunk and an open, broadly pyramid-shaped crown, becoming irregular with age. Often a pioneer tree, growing in filled lake bogs and forests that have burned. Susceptible to larch sawfly, but imported sawfly parasites usually contain outbreaks, so that defoliation is minimal. Height: 65'.

13. *Pinus sylvestris*, **Scotch pine** (Europe). Often used as a Christmas tree with bluish-green needles that occur in twos. The upper portion of the stems are an orange or orange-brown color and peel off in papery flakes, getting thicker toward the base. Many variations and varieties available. Height: 30-60'.

14. *Liriodendron tulipifera*, **Tuliptree** (native). One of the tallest and most beautiful Eastern hardwoods, with a long, straight trunk, and a narrow crown that spreads with age, and large showy flowers resembling tulips or lilies. Pioneers hollowed out a single log to make a long, lightweight canoe. One of the chief commercial hardwoods used for furniture, as well as for crates, toys, musical instruments, and pulpwood. Height: 80-120'.

15. *Fagus sylvatica* 'Purpurea', **Copper Beech** (Europe). Cultivated tree with a stout trunk like European Beech but with coppery or deep purple leaves fringed with silky brown hairs. Height: up to 160'.

16. *Tilia cordata*, **Littleleaf Linden** (Europe). Often used as a landscape tree, it is densely branched and foliated. Excellent shade tree for lawns or large areas. Tolerates wide range of conditions and is relatively pest resistant. Height: 60-70'.

17. *Thuja occidentalis*, **Eastern Arborvitae** (native). A resinous and aromatic evergreen tree with an angled, buttressed, often branched trunk and a narrow, conical crown of short, spreading branches. Probably the first North American tree introduced into Europe. It was discovered by French explorers and grown in Paris about 1536. Tea prepared from the foliage and bark, now known to be high in vitamin C, saved the crew of Jacques Cartier from scurvy. The trees grow slowly and reach an age of 400 years or more. Today, the wood is used principally for poles, cross-ties, posts and lumber. Height: 40-70'.

18. *Picea abies*, **Norway Spruce** (N. & Central Europe). Large, cone-bearing tree with straight trunk and pyramid shaped crown of spreading branches. It is widely cultivated for ornament, shade, Christmas trees, and forest plantations. The showy cones are the largest of the spruces. Height: up to 180'.

19. *Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis*, Thornless Honeylocust (native). A large tree with pinnately compound leaves that cast light shade. Often used in parking lot islands or along sidewalks. May produce seed pods that are persistent through winter. Height: 50-75'.

Fraxinus pennsylvanica, **Green Ash** (native). Tolerant of heat and cold, used as a "street" tree. Yellow fall foliage. Compound leaves with five to nine leaflets. Height: 50-60'.

20. *Magnolia x soulangiana*, Saucer Magnolia (France). Ornamental shrub or small tree usually with several trunks, and a widely spreading crown of coarse foliage and abundant, large flowers in early spring before the leaves. This popular magnolia is a hybrid of two Chinese species. Yulan Magnolia and Lily Magnolia. It originated in 1820 as a chance seedling in the garden of Etienne Soullage-Bodin, a French nurseryman. Height: 25'.

21. *Ginkgo biloba*, Ginkgo (China). Deciduous tree with a straight trunk and open, pyramid-shaped crown, becoming wide spreading and irregular with age. This species is the only one of its family worldwide. It is best known as a living fossil related to conifers and the sole survivor of its ancient and formerly widespread family. This sacred tree has long been cultivated and possibly preserved from extinction by Buddhist priests on temple grounds in China, Japan and Korea. Female trees are objectionable because of the litter of seeds, which reek like rancid butter; they should not be touched because the smell lingers after contact. This hearty tree is resistant to smoke, dust, wind, ice, insect pests and disease. Height: 50-70'.

22. *Acer rubrum*, Red Maple (native). Large tree with a narrow or rounded compact crown and red flowers, fruit (long winged paired forking keys), leaf stalks, and autumn foliage. It is a handsome shade tree, displaying red in different seasons. Pioneers made ink and cinnamon-brown and black dyes from a bark extract. It has the greatest north-south distribution of all tree species along the east coast. Height: 60-100'.

23. *Pinus strobus*, Eastern White Pine (native). The largest northeastern conifer. A magnificent evergreen tree with a straight trunk and a crown of horizontal branches, one row added per year, becoming broad and irregular. Eastern White Pine is used for construction, millwork trim, and pulpwood. The tall straight trunks were prized for ship masts in the colonial period. Height: 100'.

24. *Juglans nigra*, Black Walnut (native). Provides edible nuts and a blackish dye made from the husks (use care when handling husks - they will stain skin and clothing). The delicious nuts must be gathered early, before squirrels and other wildlife can consume them. The roots produce juglone, a chemical that prevents some plants such as tomatoes and apples from growing under a mature Walnut tree. Height: 50-75'.

25. *Ilex opaca*, American Holly (native). A medium-sized broadleaved evergreen tree. Hollies have separate male and female plants; only female plants produce the characteristic red berries. Holly is a popular winter Christmas and holiday season decoration. Height 35-60'.

- 26. *Picea pungens*, Colorado Spruce or Blue Spruce.** Colorado spruce (also blue spruce) is a medium to large, narrow, pyramidal conifer with horizontal branching to the ground. It typically grows 30-60' tall in cultivation, but may reach 100' or more where it grows naturally. It is native to the central Rocky Mountains.
- 27. *Carpinus japonica*, Japanese hornbeam** (Japan). A small understory tree with a spreading globular form, serrated deeply veined leaves and attractive catkins. Relative of American hornbeam and hop hornbeam, sometimes used in bonsai. Height: 20-30'.
- 28. *Pyrus calleryana*, 'Bradford', Bradford Callery Pear** (China, Korea). Grows very fast. Tree produces white flowers in late April or early May. Leaves are glossy green in summer with excellent fall color. It usually looks good for about 20 years. This pear tree grows its limbs in tight crotches and has a tendency to split apart. Listed in some areas as an invasive species. Height: 30-50'.
- 29. *Prunus serrulata*, Japanese Flowering Cherry** (Japan, China, Korea). A large tree growing 50-75'; however, the numerous cultivars are much preferable. Most cultivars grow 20-25' with a vase-shaped to rounded outline. They usually flower in April to early May. The flowers are greatly variable, but range from single to double, white to pink, and from 1/2" to 2 1/2" in diameter.
- 30. *Chamaecyparis obtusa*, Hinoki Falsecypress** (Japan and Formosa). Tall, slender pyramidal growth habit, branches spread and tend to droop. Needles are in two sizes, 1 1/2" long or less than 1/16"; needles have prominent white "x" patterns of wax on underside. Bark is reddish brown and sheds in long narrow strips. Height: 50-75'.
- 31. *Tilia americana*, American Linden or American Basswood** (native). Handsome shade and street tree. When flowering, the trees are full of bees, hence it is also known as the "bee-tree." The soft, light wood is useful for making food boxes, yard sticks, furniture and pulpwood. It produces a 3/8" diameter nut-like fruit that is elliptical or rounded, gray and covered with fine hairs. Height: 60-80'.
- 32. *Acer platanoides*, Norway Maple** (Europe). Deciduous tree with densely-leafed, broad, rounded crown. Bark is gray-brown with shallow furrows. Invasive. Height: 60-90'.
- 33. *Acer platanoides* var. 'Crimson King', Crimson King Maple** (Europe). Cultivar of Norway maple with reddish purple leaves. Invasive, as are all Norway maples. Height: 40-50'.
- 34. *Carya ovata*, Shagbark Hickory** (native). A large tree with a tall trunk, narrow irregular crown, and distinctive rough shaggy bark. The hickory nut is elliptical or rounded, slightly flattened and angled, light brown, with an edible seed. The name "hickory" is from pawcohiccora, the American Indian word for the oily food removed from pounded kernels steeped in boiling water. Pioneers made a yellow dye from the inner bark. Height: 70-100'.

35. *Juniperus virginiana*, Eastern Redcedar (native). A small, conical tree that commonly colonizes fields after agriculture is abandoned. It has two types of leaves: spreading prickly ones on young shoots and seedlings, and tightly overlapping scale-like leaves on the mature branches. The bark is red-brown in color, exfoliating in long, fibrous strips, often ashy gray where exposed. Small, light blue-green clusters of flowers mature in late winter or early spring. The tree produces a nearly spherical blue fruit that matures in the fall on female trees. This species hosts the apple-cedar rust, a fungus that forms galls on apples. Height: 30-40'.

36. *Quercus palustris*, Pin Oak (native). Easiest to transplant of the native oaks, therefore the most commonly planted shade and street tree. Lower branches become pendulous. Dark red fall color. Height: 60-70'.

37. *Betula papyrifera*, Paper Birch or American White Birch (native). The white, peeling bark of mature trees separates readily in papery layers. Bark layers have been used by Native Americans for canoes and shelter coverings, boxes, cups, shoes, and emergency snow goggles. Height 70-80'.

38. *Populus tremuloides*, Quaking Aspen (native). A tall fast-growing tree with smooth pale bark and glossy green leaves with small teeth on the margins. The leaves tremble in the wind, giving the tree its common name. Height 60-80'.

39. *Robinia pseudoacacia*, Black Locust (native). Named by the British at Jamestown for its resemblance to the old-world locust, this tree has been planted for shelter and erosion control. Used for fence posts. White, fragrant flowers in May. Can become invasive in sites north of its native area. Height: 80'.

40. *Platanus occidentalis*, American Sycamore (native). An American sycamore tree can often be easily distinguished from other trees by its mottled exfoliating bark which flakes off in great irregular masses, leaving the surface mottled, and greenish-white, gray and brown. Height 100-130'.

41. *Rhamnus cathartica*, Common Buckthorn (Europe). A shrub or tree with twigs ending in sharp spines. Common in waste places, naturalized widely. Height 16-26'.

42. *Liquidambar styraciflua*, Sweetgum (native). Unusual five to seven-pointed star shaped leaves with brilliant fall colors. Fruit forms a rounded seed capsule that persists into the winter. Prefers moist conditions, but will tolerate all. Height: 60-75'.

43. *Cornus kousa*, Kousa Dogwood (Korea, Japan). Ornamental tree with creamy white flowers of four bracts has been planted extensively to replace diseased *Cornus florida*. Several cultivars available. Height: 20-30'.

44. *Quercus bicolor*, Swamp White Oak (native). Leaves are dark, shiny green above and silvery white beneath, with 5-10 rounded lobes or blunt teeth along the margins. Found in moist to swampy locations in bottomlands and lowlands, such as along streams and lakes, valleys, floodplains and at the edge of swamps. Fall color is yellow, but sometimes reddish purple. Height 50-60'.

45. *Prunus serotina*, Black Cherry (native). The native cherry, seldom planted as a landscape tree. White flower panicles in spring. Fruits are red, changing to black and have a bitter-sweet flavor. Has a weedy, aggressive nature. Used for furniture, firewood. Height: 50-60'.

46. *Tsuga canadensis*, Eastern Hemlock (native). The native hemlock has a distribution across the entire eastern half of the country. Its bark was valued for its tannins and the cambium was used by Native Americans for bread or as an additive to pemmican. The leaves can be brewed into a tea that is very high in vitamin C. Currently under pressure from the Hemlock wooly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*), or HWA, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has released hundreds of thousands of black lady beetle (*Sasajiscymnus tsugae*) adults, a natural predator for HWA. Both HWA and *S. tsugae* are from Asia. Height: 100'.

47. *Taxus baccata*, Common Yew (England). Small to medium sized evergreen tree with flat, single needles that are dark green and arranged spirally along the stem. Cones are modified and look like red berries. Height: 30-60'.

Fraxinus americana, **White Ash** (native). Large tree with a straight trunk and a dense conical or rounded crown of foliage with whitish lower surfaces. The wood of White Ash is particularly suited for making baseball bats, tennis rackets, hockey sticks, oars, and playground equipment. Height: 80'.