


Trees of Eugene

This one-hour tour introduces you to 20 of the more than 75 species of trees that grow in the South University Neighborhood. Many of these trees are either uncommon, unusually large or old examples of their kind. Most of the trees grow on private property and are easily viewed from public sidewalks or alleys.

The South University Neighborhood is one of Eugene's middle-aged residential areas. Much of the building and tree planting occurred during the 1920s, when treeless grasslands were converted into residences surrounded by gardens. The central part of this neighborhood sits atop a small hill; here, the soil is fairly well-drained. Soil on the hill's lower flanks contains mostly clay and drains poorly. The vigor of different tree species in the neighborhood is directly related to these site constraints.


The emphasis of this and other neighborhood walking tours is on large, old trees. Such trees are significant for more than historical and aesthetic reasons. Large trees provide our community and our planet with more environmental benefits than do small trees. And the benefits we reap from large trees increase with their age, as long as they remain healthy.

With this brochure, we hope to foster greater appreciation and understanding of the many trees with which we share our city. As a community, we need to plan for trees, carefully plant them, and protect and maintain them as they mature. With potentially catastrophic global climate change in the forecast, urban trees are undergoing a monumental reformation in status. Instead of being luxuries, they have become necessities. As the saying goes, the best time to plant trees was 50 years ago. The second best time is today!

 **1** These **Atlas Cedars** (*Cedrus atlantica*) are the largest in Eugene, and were planted in 1924. They are true cedars, with needles borne in whorls on older shoots, and cones that stand upright on the branches.

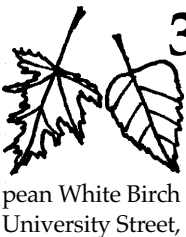
This species grows vigorously in the Willamette Valley and is native to the Atlas Mountains of northern Africa. Foliage color on different trees can vary from green to bluish.

2114 University Street (rear garden by alley)


 **2** The **Oriental Spruce** (*Picea orientalis*) is one of the rarest trees in our area. A native of Asia Minor, it has the shortest needles of any of the spruces, and relatively small cones as well. It is a graceful addition to any landscape and, like other spruces, is

tolerant of wet soils and prefers some summer water.

2028 University Street (front garden, near steps)

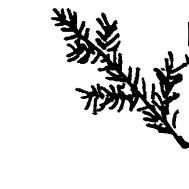
 **3** **European White Birch** (*Betula pendula*) is easily recognized by its white bark, and grows well in our area when provided with summer irrigation. These trees are the cutleaf cultivar 'Dalecarlica' sometimes called Swedish Weeping Birch. A European White Birch can be seen just south of these three, at 2041 University Street, as well as elsewhere in this neighborhood.

2015 University Street (park strip)

 **4** The **European Mountain-Ash** (*Sorbus aucuparia*) is eye-catching both in April, when it is covered with large clusters of creamy-white flowers, and again in fall, when brilliant orange-red fruits festoon

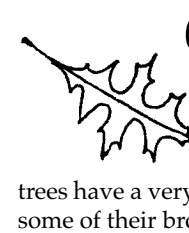
its branches. The fruits are savored by robins, cedar waxwings, and other fruit-eating birds in late fall and winter. This tree is one of the oldest of its species in Eugene.

2015 University Street (front garden)

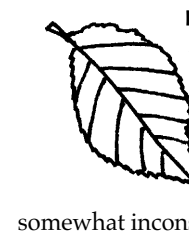
 **5** Common in forests of the Cascades above 5,000 feet elevation, the **Mountain Hemlock** (*Tsuga mertensiana*) is seldom planted in gardens in our area. Unlike other hemlocks whose needles are arranged on opposite sides of the shoot, the

needles of mountain hemlock arise from all sides of the shoot. It is a long-lived tree with a slow to moderate growth rate.


1256 East 20th Avenue (west of house, by alley)

 **6** This tree, the largest **Pin Oak** (*Quercus palustris*) in Eugene, was planted in the 1920s. It is native to eastern North America, often in swampy areas. Older trees have an upright growth habit and lose most of their leaves in fall; young trees have a very different habit and many, but not all, retain some of their bronze-colored leaves until late winter.

1987 University Street (courtyard northwest of building)


 **7** Elm species (*Ulmus spp.*) are sometimes difficult to distinguish. This magnificent tree may even be a hybrid of two other elms. They are long-lived trees, providing wonderful shade for many generations. Most require deep soil and summer irrigation. Their flowers and fruits are somewhat inconspicuous, and their leaves turn yellow in fall.

1955 University Street (front garden)

 **8** This fine, old **Port Orford Cedar** (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*) is one of the largest in Eugene. It is native to southwestern Oregon and northwestern California. The trees are quite variable in color (green to blue to yellow), habit, and form. Their cones are the size of peas.

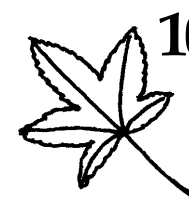
Many have died in the past few decades due to a soil-borne fungus that prevents water uptake; once infected, death comes very quickly.

1910 University Street (west of building, visible from alley)

 **9** Although native to the western slope of the Sierra Nevada of California, the **Giant Sequoia** (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) is at home in our winter-wet, summer-dry climate. This specimen is among the tallest trees in our


community and shows no sign of slowing down; it was planted around 1935. The buttressed trunk and symmetrical, conical form are characteristic of this species.

1136 East 19th Avenue (in back, by alley)

 **10** The **American Sweetgum** (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) is one of the most common trees in this neighborhood. It does well both atop the hill and on the poorly drained soils of the hill's lower flanks. This tree is the largest of its kind in our community. Fall leaf color varies


greatly from tree to tree, and even within a particular tree, from yellow and orange to red and purple. Note the spherical, prickly fruits.

1125 East 19th Avenue (front garden)

 **11** Native to mountain slopes of Tibet and Afghanistan, the **Himalayan Cedar** or **Deodar** (*Cedrus deodara*) grows very well in our area and is the most commonly planted "true" cedar. It is related to the Atlas Cedar (#1), but has

longer needles, and the tree's habit is more graceful, especially when young. It is fairly drought-tolerant and needs well-drained soil to do well.

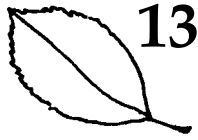
987 East 19th Avenue (front garden)

 **12** Across all of North America, the most commonly planted spruce is the **Norway Spruce** (*Picea abies*). It is an immigrant from western Europe, where it is native from northern Scandinavia to Spain and Italy. Its six-inch-long cones distinguish it from other

spruces grown in our area, all of which have much smaller cones. These two trees lost their original leaders some years ago, but have developed multiple new leaders from what once were lateral branches.

1925 Harris Street (park strip)

Trees of Eugene



13 The **Lavalle Hawthorn** (*Crataegus x lavallei*) is of hybrid origin. Its shiny, dark green leaves remain vibrant into late fall, when they turn orange-red before dropping. Showy white flowers in mid-May are followed in fall by clusters of red fruits. Like most hawthorns, it tolerates heavy soils. Unlike most hawthorns, it is seldom afflicted with disease and does not produce watersprouts.

2163 Harris Street (park strip)



14 The **Bigleaf Maple** (*Acer macrophyllum*) grows best on deep, well-drained soils, and is native to the maritime Northwest. It is one of the largest broadleaf, deciduous trees in our area. This handsome threesome

was planted more than fifty years ago. Pendulous clusters of chartreuse flowers appear in early April; in late October, its leaves turn a bright yellow before dropping.

2176 Harris Street (park strip)



15 The **Chusan Palm** (*Trachycarpus fortunei*) is a surprise to many Eugeneans. Although uncommon in our area, it is by no means rare and is the only palm hardy this far north. A native of China, it is a "fan palm" related to the stately palms that line

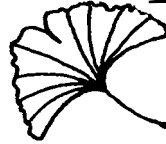
many streets in parts of California and Arizona. "Feather palms" include date palms and coconut palms, whose fronds are altogether different.

938 East 22nd Avenue (rear garden, visible from alley)



16 This splendid specimen of **Ponderosa Pine** (*Pinus ponderosa*) is perhaps seventy years old. A native of our area, it is superbly adapted to our climate and soils, and deserves to be planted more often. Pines over 250 years old can still be seen in Eugene's south hills, and may well live several hundred more years. The long needles are borne in threes and the cones take two years to mature.

2160 Potter Street (rear garden, visible from alley)



17 The **Ginkgo** (*Ginkgo biloba*) is generally considered extinct in the wild, but has been cultivated for centuries in China and Japan. Its curious, fan-shaped leaves turn a lovely yellow in fall. Only the tree nearest the house, a female, produces fruit. The ginkgo requires good

drainage and summer water to do well. It also needs to be protected from the summertime prevailing north winds, which can severely deform its crown.

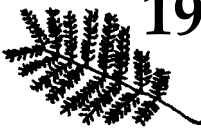
1138 East 22nd Avenue (front garden)



18 Unlike most maples, **Paperbark Maple** (*Acer griseum*) has compound leaves composed of three leaflets and unusual bark more reminiscent of birches than maples. A native of China, this relatively slow-growing tree is one of the smaller maples, eventually reaching

thirty feet in height. Like many trees native to areas with summer rain, it benefits from supplemental irrigation during our annual drought.

2186 University Street (park strip, south of house)



19 The **Silk Tree** or **Mimosa** (*Albizzia julibrissin*), native to Asia, is one of our few summer-flowering trees. Its tropical appearance and fragrant, fluffy pink blossoms are a feature of many local gardens. A member of the pea family, it

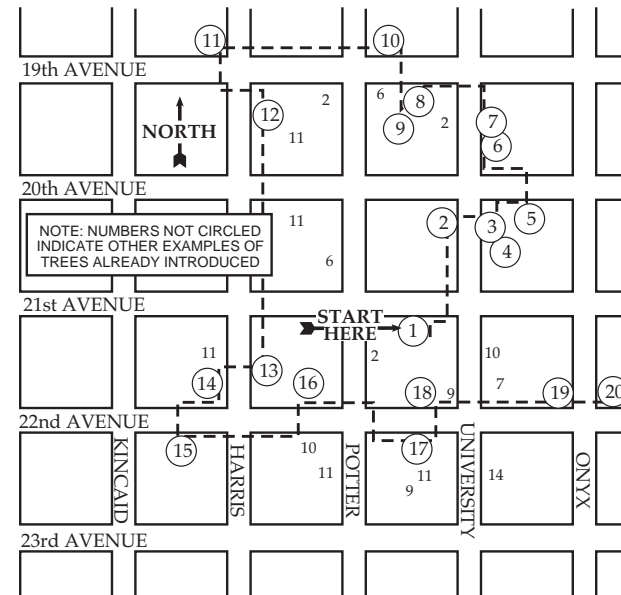
produces long pods in the fall that persist on the tree through most of the winter. The tiny leaflets fold up at night, like the true mimosa or "sensitive plant".

1291 East 22nd Avenue (southeast corner of house)



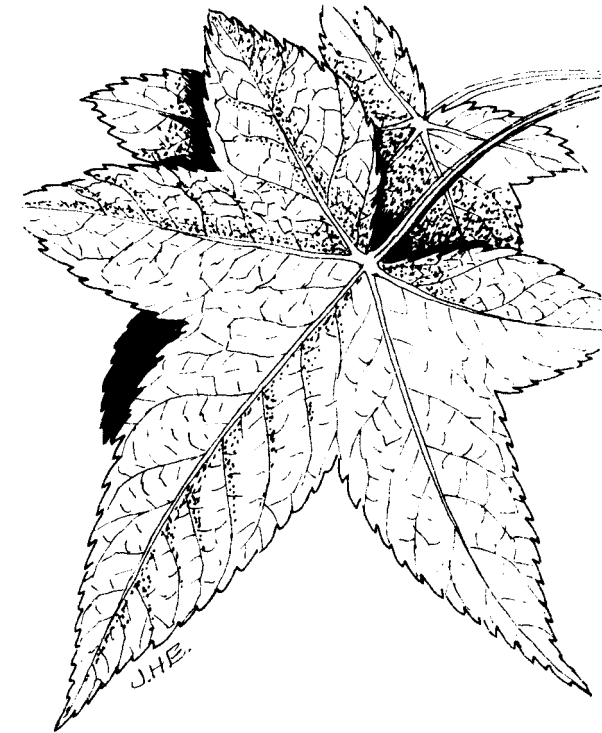
20 A hybrid between the Eastern Sycamore of North America and the Oriental Plane Tree, the **London Plane Tree** (*Platanus x acerifolia*) is a common urban tree from Paris to Melbourne. The knobby protrusions along its trunk distinguish it from both its parents. It is a fast-growing, wind-strong, long-lived tree that produces spherical fruits that eventually disintegrate and disperse tiny seeds.

2191 Onyx Street (front garden)



**Public Works
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*A walking tour of
the South University
Neighborhood*