



Bark plays a major protective role in the life of a tree and often becomes spectacular with age. There are not many large specimens growing at the arboretum due to the garden's relatively young age and small size. Here, many trees are evaluated and may be removed long before they reach maturity. This tour will show you a few of our hidden beauties.

1. Japanese crepe myrtle (*Lagerstroemia fauriei* 'Fantasy') Planted here in the 1950s, this specimen is one of the oldest and largest Japanese crepe myrtles growing outside of Japan. Its smooth, cinnamon-colored bark is exceptional, highlighting its unusual vase-like form.

2. Kawakami maple (*Acer caudatifolium*) Rare in cultivation, this snake-bark maple from Taiwan shows off its striking green patterned bark. The bark form of this specimen has a somewhat regular pattern with green bark, lightly striped with white.

Asian Valley

3. Wilson's dogwood (*Cornus wilsoniana*) This Chinese beauty was discovered by E. H. Wilson during his plant exploration for the Arnold Arboretum in the early 1900s. The smooth bark is gray or greenish-gray, splitting rectangularly. The wood is dense and used for making farm tools and furniture.

4. Dwarf Chinese elm (*Ulmus parvifolia* 'Seiju') Unlike most Chinese elms, 'Seiju' has unusual heavily-textured stems that are corky and are covered with tiny 1/2 inch, dark green, elm leaves.

5. Chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*) The specimen here is a tall Asian form that is much larger than the typical species. Our 20-year old specimen has furrowed bark with orange streaks. In mid-spring it's covered with fragrant lavender flowers.

White Garden

6. Variegated London planetree (*Platanus ×hispanica* 'Suttneri') 'Suttneri' is attractive in winter, when prickly ball-shaped fruits hang like baubles, and the flaking mottled cream and brown bark is particularly noticeable.

7. Tea-oil camellia (*Camellia oleifera*) This evergreen tree is best known as the camellia used in hybridization programs in the U.S. to develop cold-hardy camellias for the Zone 6 climate. Its multiple trunks are covered with exquisite, smooth bark, golden-tan in color.

8. Weeping blue Atlas cedar (*Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauca Pendula') Look near the base of this striking 21-year old specimen, to see the older and more attractive, furrowed bark. This grafted tree must be staked and trained while young, to create the desired form, or it will end up growing close to the ground. Its a slow grower - about one foot per year.

Path to Winter Garden

9. Variegated Chinese elm (*Ulmus parvifolia* 'Frosty') Chinese elms have excellent ornamental bark that sheds leaving irregular spots of orange, gray, green, brown. 'Frosty' gets its name from its small, serrated leaves, tinged with white frosted borders.

10. Chinese parasol tree (*Firmiana simplex*)

A favorite at the arboretum for its unique greenish-white, smooth bark and stems. Dormant buds dot the trunk. The remains of its large lobed leaves now cover the ground.

11. East China stewartia (*Stewartia sinensis* var. *sinensis*)

Delightful all year, this small tree is covered with attractive papery bark that exfoliates (peels) to reveal patches of gray, brown, and orange bark. White, fragrant 2-inch cupped flowers cover this tree in spring.

Winter Garden

12. Coastal redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens* ‘Soquel’)

This conifer is the smallest tree-form cultivar of the Coast Redwood and was planted here in 1988. Rich brown, fibrous bark only becomes more exquisite with age. Light green lichens cover the base of the tree.

13. Japanese-cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica* ‘Benjamin Franklin’)

This tree has reddish-brown bark which comes off in long strips. The wood is strongly rot resistant and is used for buildings, ships, furniture, utensils, and paper manufacture. In the cypress plant family (Cupressaceae), same as our Eastern red cedar.

14. Taiwan coffin cypress (*Taiwania cryptomerioides*)

This evergreen conifer is rarely seen outside of public gardens. Its wood is light but durable and is used in the making of furniture and coffins in its native Taiwan.

15. Green-flowering cherry (*Prunus* ‘Ukon’)

A most unique cherry, with a spring display of greenish-yellow flowers that tinge pink with age. Bark is smooth with large, dominant horizontal lenticels.

16. Rough-bark Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum* ‘Arakawa’) Unlike the typical smooth bark of Japanese maples, ‘Arakawa’ is known for its beautiful rough bark that becomes quite corky after about three to four years of age. This specimen was 4-feet tall in 1996.

Conifer Collection

17. Pine-bark Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum* ‘Nishiki gawa’) The bark is rough and more deeply fissured, than ‘Arakawa’. With age the bark can become quite corky, resembling a pine tree’s bark. This specimen is slightly over 20-years old. Behind and to the right is the **three-flower maple (*Acer triflorum*)** with its unusual tan-white to cinnamon brown exfoliating bark.

Townhouse Model Garden

18. Japanese crepe myrtle (*Lagerstroemia fauriei* ‘Townhouse’) This JCRA selection is notable for its exceptionally wide, multi-trunked form and dark, rusty-brown bark, possibly the darkest of any crepe myrtle. Each year, large sheets of bark peel off the Japanese crepe myrtles in late June.

Mixed Border

19. Zhejiang crepe myrtle (*Lagerstroemia limii*) A new species of crepe myrtle we received as seed in 1994 from Chollipo Arboretum, South Korea. A botanical rarity with pale pink flowers, an amazing fruit display, and outstanding golden fall color, ours has quickly developed into a small tree with beautiful form and branch structure. The peeling bark reveals a rich cinnamon-brown layer.

N. Doubrava, December 21, 2009

