

JCRA Signature Plants

Self-guided Tour JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University

This tour will help you learn about a few of the awesome JCRA “signature” woody ornamental plants. You will find some interesting facts, a little bit of history, and characteristics of some of our favorite JCRA plants.

1. Fantasy Crepe Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia fauriei* ‘Fantasy’)

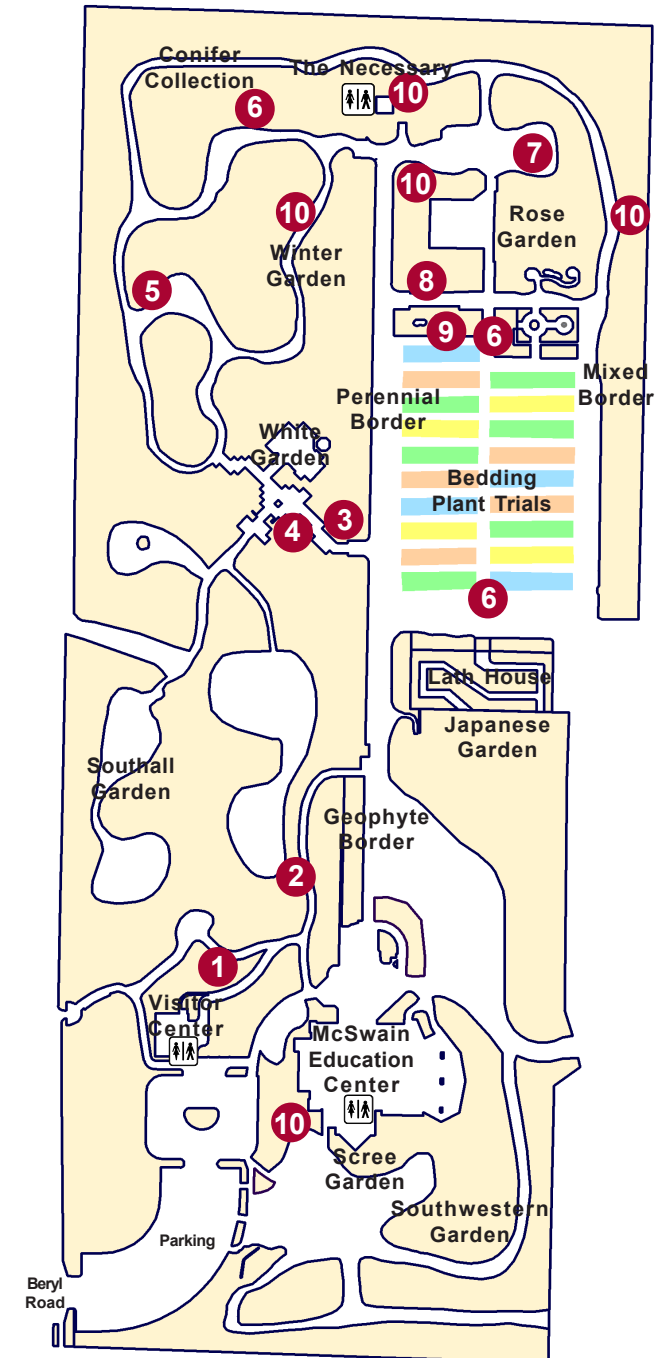
‘Fantasy’ is one of the largest and oldest Japanese crepe myrtle specimens known to be growing outside Japan. This specimen was grown from seeds collected by US National Arboretum on Yakushima Island, Japan, which is the only place in the world where this species occurs naturally. It is the tallest of five original seedlings of Japanese crepe myrtle planted at the Arboretum in the 1950s. ‘Fantasy’ has orange-red, exfoliating bark, a straight, upright, fluted trunk, and white flowers in early summer. ‘Fantasy’ was selected and named at the Arboretum by Dr. J. C. Raulston.

2. Raulston Allspice (*Calycanthus ×raulstonii* ‘Hartlage Wine’)

The name of this plant honors Dr. J.C. Raulston, founding director of the Arboretum. This hybrid was created at the Arboretum by crossing the Chinese wax plant, *Calycanthus chinensis*, with our eastern native Carolina allspice, *Calycanthus floridus*. Former NC State student, Richard Hartlage, conducted these crosses under Dr. Raulston’s direction in 1991. This is a JC Raulston Arboretum plant introduction.

3. Emerald Pagoda Japanese Snowbell (*Styrax japonicus* ‘Emerald Pagoda’)

‘Emerald Pagoda’ was discovered on Sohuksan Island, South Korea in 1985 during an expedition by Dr. J. C. Raulston. It has large-sized flowers and thick-textured, large, dark green, leathery leaves, more attractive than the typical forms of this species. In the springtime, it is breathtakingly beautiful, covered with pendent, white, bell-shaped flowers. Later in the year, attractive silver-green, egg-shaped fruits occur.



4. Red Lace-leaf Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum* Dissectum Atropurpureum Group)

Japanese Maples are the symbol of the JC Raulston Arboretum. Look around closely during your visit today, you should be able to see one from any location in the Arboretum. NC State horticulture students planted this stately specimen in the Klein-Pringle White Garden in 1980. It has an exceptional weeping form and is estimated to be over 100 years old.

5. Sweetheart Tree (*Euscaphis japonica*)

The sweetheart tree has long been promoted through NC State. It was discovered in South Korea in 1985 during a collecting trip by Dr. J. C. Raulston and Dr. Theodore Dudley (US National Arboretum). Besides its attractive, lustrous dark green foliage, mature plants produce highly attractive bright reddish-pink fruit capsules that split open to reveal dark, blue-black seeds inside.

6. Dwarf Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda* NCSU Dwarf Group)

These pine trees are among the finest and most unique plants in the JCRA, being the world's only collection of dwarf loblolly pines. In 1964 seeds were collected from a witch's broom found in a loblolly pine tree. The seeds were planted, and luckily, some seedlings had dwarf features. From these cuttings were rooted that eventually grew into these stately trees. Our specimens have matured to form slow growing relatively small-sized pines with dense, rounded crowns. Few others exist in the world, since a reliable propagation method has yet to be found.

7. Lace Parasol Weeping Winged Elm (*Ulmus alata* 'Lace Parasol')

This lovely specimen is a another named introduction from the Arboretum. This unique plant specimen was found on an old farm in Cavel, North Carolina (Person County), and eventually was donated to the Arboretum. 'Lace Parasol' bears a graceful weeping habit that combines with broadly ridged, corky "wings" on the twigs to create an attractive sculptural shape. In winter when leaves do not hide the bark, there is no finer tree in the Arboretum.

8. Townhouse Crepe Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia fauriei* 'Townhouse')

This outstanding specimen is another commercial plant introduction from the Arboretum. 'Townhouse' grew from a chance seedling found under the Arboretum's original 'Fantasy' Japanese crepe myrtle (tour stop #1). Students chose it to be a feature in the Townhouse Model Garden, for its dark maroon exfoliating bark and wide, multi-trunked form. 'Townhouse' was selected and introduced to the nursery industry by the Arboretum in the 1980s.

9. Chindo Viburnum (*Viburnum awabuki* 'Chindo')

This evergreen viburnum was first collected by Dr. J. C. Raulston in South Korea from a specimen growing in a schoolyard on Chindo Island in 1985. J. C. observed that this tree produced larger clusters of bright red berries, more than was known for this species. 'Chindo' bears large, dark green, substantial leaves, attractive year-round, and is virtually a pest-free plant. For reasons currently unknown, fruit set has been sparse on plants growing in the southeastern

U. S., unlike the original specimen growing in the schoolyard on Chindo Island. 'Chindo' viburnum makes an excellent, fast-growing, screening hedge or an equally attractive specimen plant.

10. Japanese Flowering Apricot (*Prunus mume*)

Japanese flowering apricots have outstanding winter flowers, usually December to February, that are deliciously fragrant. Their lovely display lasts for a couple of months as new buds keep opening even after old flowers are frozen. Flower colors may be pink, white, red, or lavender, and single, double, or semi-double. Upright, contorted, and weeping forms are also available and can be seen at the JCRA. A few of our favorites are indicated on the tour map.



This tour was developed by JC Raulston Arboretum volunteer, Vivian Finkelstein and interpretive specialist, Nancy Doubrava (updated 1/2008).