

Trees available for sponsorship 2026

	Species	Common name	Location on CUBG map (see end of this document)	Description
1	<i>Acer opalus</i> 19900539 A	Italian maple	Fairway (S7)	<p>The Italian maple is bearing attractive winged fruits on the Fairway.</p> <p>First grown in gardens of the United Kingdom in 1752 <i>Acer opalus</i> remains one of the lesser known species of maple. It is an attractive species from temperate Asia and Europe, where it grows on limestone in cool, humid forests at altitudes up to 2000m. The leaves are held on a red or green petiole up to 18cm in length, and have three to five shallow lobes, and these may take on golden colours in autumn. In early spring it bears attractive yellow flowers to great effect, and these are followed by clusters of samara (fruit), consisting of a pair of winged nutlets, which can be up to 5cm in length.</p>  

2	<p><i>Acer sempervirens</i> 10006322 A</p> 	Cretan maple	Mediterranean Beds (H9)	<p>The Cretan maple is an attractive small tree growing in our Mediterranean Beds and introduced into cultivation from the Mediterranean in 1752.</p> <p>A native of Greece and Turkey, it grows in dry conditions in maquis and forest margins, and it is potentially a good choice for cultivation in a changing climate. The glossy foliage of this evergreen species is variable in shape, and in spring it produces corymbs of small green-yellow flowers, which are followed by a mass of small-winged fruits which provide interest through summer into autumn.</p>
3	<p><i>Broussonetia x kazinoki</i> 19902901 A</p>  	Paper mulberry	Systematics/West Walk (E5)	<p>The Kozo paper mulberry is showing its curious globular flowers beside the Systematic Beds.</p> <p>One of only eight species, <i>Broussonetia x kazinoki</i>, is a deciduous tree or shrub endemic to Japan. It has ovate, downy leaves, which can be two or three-lobed. This specimen is a female, having globose flower heads with slender, pink styles, which have a hairy appearance. The fruits are woolly on the outer and pithy in the centre, and from these emerge individual sweet, sticky, orange seeds. The young growth and shoots are also pithy, and this species is easily propagated from heel cuttings. The young leaves are cooked as a vegetable in its native homeland. The genus takes its name from the French naturalist, TNV Broussonet, 1761-1807.</p>

4	<p><i>Carpinus turczaninovii</i> 19860002A</p> 	Korean hornbeam	Fairway (R7)	<p>Sitting along the Fairway, <i>Carpinus turczaninovii</i> is one of 40 hornbeam species.</p> <p>All are deciduous trees belonging to the Betulaceae (birch) family, which occur throughout Europe, Asia and North America. This one, <i>C. turczaninovii</i>, originates from China and Korea, where it is common in open woodland and scrub. It was first discovered by the Russian botanist Nicolai Turczaninow in 1831 but introduced to our gardens by Reginald Farrer in 1914. It can grow to reach 20m in height and produces attractive clusters of downy catkins up to 6cm long in spring, before the toothed leaves emerge.</p>
5	<p><i>Carrierea calycina</i> 19960370 A</p> 	Goat horn tee	Main Lawn (J10)	<p>This attractive deciduous tree can be seen on the Main Lawn.</p> <p><i>Carrierea calycina</i> is a member of the willow family, Salicaceae, and is named in honour of the French botanist Elie Abel Carrière (1816 – 1896). It originates from central and western China and was introduced to our gardens in 1908 by Ernest Wilson. It has a wide, spreading habit, and alternate, glossy leaves which are toothed and cordate (heart-shaped), with red petioles (stalks). The terminal inflorescences carry approximately ten cup-shaped, creamy-white, scented flowers. After flowering it produces curved, spindle-shaped fruits which resemble goats' horns, and give rise to the common Chinese name of goat horn tree. Despite its attractive appearance this species is something of a rarity in cultivation and can be shy to flower.</p>

6	<p><i>Catalpa ovata</i> 19630018 A</p> 	<p>Chinese bean tree</p>	<p>Fairway (T7)</p>	<p>The Chinese bean tree grows on the Fairway.</p> <p>Reaching 11m in height this species originates from the forests of western China and was introduced into cultivation in 1849 by the German physician and botanist P F von Siebold. The flowers are far more subtle than those of the more widely grown <i>C. speciosa</i>, being a soft yellow in colour with deep red flecks and golden markings in their throats, and are held in narrow, pyramidal panicles. The flowers are followed by slender green seedpods, which grow to 40cm in length, and these will mature to a dark brown and will split along their length to reveal the bean-like seeds. Glabrous leaves usually have the cordate, heart-shaped form associated with the genus, though they are occasionally two or three-lobed.</p> <p>A member of the predominantly tropical family Bignoniaceae, the genus <i>Catalpa</i> is related to the trumpet vine, <i>Campsis radicans</i> and the African sausage tree, <i>Kigelia africana</i>.</p>
7	<p><i>Corylus colurna</i> 19808081 A</p> 	<p>Turkish hazel</p>	<p>Fairway (R6)</p>	<p>The Turkish hazel grows beside the South Walk.</p> <p>One of 15 species, the Turkish hazel (<i>Corylus colurna</i>) is a conical tree reaching 20 m in height. It has oval, toothed leaves, each with a pointed apex, and male catkins, which are 7.5 cm in length. Fruits are produced in autumn, and sit in a distinctive fringed husk, persisting through winter. Flourishing in hot summers and cold winters, <i>C. colurna</i> is a native of south eastern Europe and south west Asia, and was introduced into cultivation in England in the mid-sixteenth century.</p>

8	<p><i>Diospyros lotus</i> 10005811 A</p> 	Date plum	Woodland Garden (C8)	<p>A member of the tropical family Ebenaceae (ebony), <i>Diospyros lotus</i> is one of the few hardy members of this genus.</p> <p>This multi-stemmed specimen, with its dark bark and broad canopy, provides valuable cover in the Woodland garden. The deciduous leaves have a glossy upper surface. In summer it produces delicate flowers, and female trees produce fleshy fruits, though this specimen is male so is fruitless. A native of China and the Himalaya, <i>Diospyros lotus</i> is rarely grown in our gardens, though was first introduced to England in the seventeenth century.</p>
9	<p><i>Ehretia dicksonii</i> 19564285 A</p> 		Fairway (S7)	<p>This unusual tree can be found in the long grass off the Fairway.</p> <p>The Boraginaceae (borage family) comprises approximately 140 genus of herbaceous species from around the world, although it also comprises woody genera, including <i>Ehretia</i>. Named in honour of the German botanical artist GD Ehret, the genus contains 50 species, the majority of which occur in Asia, Africa and Australia, though three occur in the New World. The Chinese species <i>Ehretia dicksonii</i> is a hardy member of the genus, reaching 10m in height and displaying heavily fissured bark when mature. It has entire, downy leaves, typical of members of the borage family. Panicles of white, five-petaled flowers with protruding stamens are borne in June and July.</p>

10	<p>Fraxinus ornus 19564287 A</p> 	<p>Manna ash</p>	<p>Fairway (R6)</p>	<p>The manna ash can be admired at the western end of the Fairway.</p> <p>One of 65 species from Europe, Asia and North America, <i>Fraxinus ornus</i> has a rounded, dense canopy which can grow to 20m in height, and which produces fragrant panicles of creamy, feathery flowers, and subsequently delicate, narrow winged fruits. A native of southern Europe and southwestern Asia, it is grown commercially in Sicily for the production of manna, which is a sweet, sticky gum extracted from the bark, hence the common name manna ash.</p>
11	<p>Liquidambar orientalis 19885001 D</p>  	<p>Oriental sweetgum</p>	<p>Northern lakeside (E9)</p>	<p><i>Liquidambar orientalis</i> is a native of western Asia, where it grows in forests in warm zones, and favours moist soils, though it will also grow on dry mountain slopes.</p> <p>Growing to up to 30m it has five-lobed leaves and is often mistaken for a maple (<i>Acer</i>), though has alternate, not opposite leaves. During autumn <i>L. orientalis</i> gradually takes on colour, building from a base of yellow, speckled with reds, to a full wash of deep red colouring. When crushed the leaves emit a sweet, pineapple fragrance. A monoecious species, in which inflorescences of male and female flowers are borne on the same plant, the male flowers are held in a condensed head or spike and the female inflorescences borne on a long stalk and comprising many flowers. The terminal male flowers emerge with the new foliage. The attractive fruits resemble nutty clusters, with each individual seed capsule producing a beak, and these will ripen and remain on the tree well into a second year, so that the previous year's fruits and the current year's can be seen together. The common name sweet gum is applied in reference to the resin, or liquid storax, which is produced from the inner bark and which has been used as a remedy for bronchial conditions in treatments such as friar's balsam.</p>

12	<p><i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> 198203314 A</p> 	<p>Tulip tree</p>	<p>Autumn Garden. East Walk (S9)</p>	<p>This American native grows beside the East Walk.</p> <p>In its native homeland in the north and eastern United States, <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> can grow to almost 60m. It is a distinct tree with saddle-shaped foliage, and cup-shaped flowers. These are a whitish-green in colour and have an orange-yellow central spot and a pronounced pistil surrounded by several stamens. There is debate about the origin of the common name 'tulip tree', with some considering that it refers to the leaf shape, which resembles a tulip in silhouette, though it is more likely to have been assigned in reference to the similarity of the flower to that of a tulip. The generic name <i>Liriodendron</i> comes from the Greek <i>leirion</i>, meaning lily, and <i>dendron</i> meaning tree. Its exact date of introduction to British gardens is unknown, though it was probably introduced in the early 1600's. The Garden also has a large Cambridgeshire champion tulip tree which can be found growing behind the Magnolias on the Lynch Walk.</p>
13	<p><i>Pinus bungeana</i> 19590228 A</p> 	<p>Lacebark pine</p>	<p>Main Walk (D7)</p>	<p>This young specimen nestles quietly amongst giants on the Main Walk, where it can be admired for its attractive bark.</p> <p><i>Pinus bungeana</i>, or the lacebark pine, is one of approximately 120 species of <i>Pinus</i>. It is a slow-growing Chinese species reaching 20m in height and forming a bushy-headed tree. The beautiful, flaking bark with its brown, russet, grey and white tones is an attractive feature, though in cultivation it rarely takes on the dominant white colouring of trees in their native habitat. The leaves (or needles) are stiff and are borne in threes, and the cones are ovoid and reach 7cm in length. This species was named in honour of the Russian German botanist Alexander Bunge who collected specimens of this species near Peking in China in 1831, though it was only introduced into cultivation in the mid 1840's by Robert Fortune.</p>

14	<p><i>Pinus gerardiana</i> 10005001 A</p> 	<p>Chilgoza pine</p>	<p>Terrace Garden (K10)</p>	<p>This champion tree sits amongst the backdrop to the Terrace Garden.</p> <p><i>Pinus gerardiana</i> is a native of dry, temperate forests of the north-western Himalaya and northern Afghanistan, where it grows at altitudes to 3,300m. The leaves (or needles) are held in groups of three, and can be up to 10cm in length, and the cones, with their spine-tipped scales, can reach 20cm. These are harvested intensely for their edible nuts by native peoples in its natural range, to such an extent that there is little natural regeneration of this species in the wild, resulting in it being categorized by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as near threatened. This is a rare species in cultivation, and this example is recorded as being a United Kingdom and Ireland champion for both girth and height, being 14m in height and having a girth of 149cm. It is admired for its peeling, grey and green bark, which can be seen to great effect in the canopy, and as small, flaking platelets on the lower trunk.</p> <p>It was introduced to our gardens in 1839 by Lord Auckland, Governor-General of India, having been discovered by Captain Gerard of the Bengal Native Infantry, after whom it is named.</p>
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15	<p><i>Pinus x holfordiana</i> 10006588 A</p> 	Holford pine	Old Pinetum (L7)	<p>This large specimen in the Old Pinetum is a hybrid between <i>P. ayacahuite</i> and <i>P. wallichiana</i>, and was first raised at Westonbirt Arboretum in 1904.</p> <p>This is a vigorous species exceeding 30m in height, and requiring moist, well-drained soils. The grey-brown bark becomes heavily fissured with age; long needle-like leaves reach 20cm in length and are held in clusters of 5. It is the slender cones which set this species apart, reaching 30cm in length with a russet colouring and often bearing sticky sap at the tip of the cone scales.</p>
16	<p><i>Quercus castaneifolia</i> 199010462 A</p> 	Chestnut-leaved oak	South Walk (W7)	<p>The chestnut leaved oak sits beside South Walk.</p> <p>Originating from the Caucasus and Iran, <i>Quercus castaneifolia</i> occurs in humid forests at altitudes up to 2000m. Rarely cultivated it is deciduous or semi-evergreen in habit, and has black bark when young, which develops to dark grey and can take on a ridged texture. The slender leaves have up to 12 serrated or gently waved teeth, a shiny, dark green upper surface, and a grey-green lower surface covered in fine hairs. The flattened fruits are held in cups covered in reflexed scales, and these are initially fleshy, becoming woody with age. <i>Q. castaneifolia</i> was introduced to Britain in 1843, and this specimen was grown from seed collected in Georgia by our previous Director, Dr Donald Pigott.</p>

17	<p>Quercus suber 20140935 A</p> 	<p>Cork oak</p>	<p>East end of Glasshouses (K11)</p>	<p>The distinctive cork oak provides year-round interest at the eastern end of the Glasshouse Range.</p> <p>Comprising between 400 and 450 species the genus <i>Quercus</i> consists mainly of northern hemisphere trees, though there are some shrubby species, and a few southern hemisphere species. The bark of most species is thick and rough, and the lobed or unlobed leaves are arranged in a spiral. The cork oak (<i>Q. suber</i>) has a natural range of southern Europe and north Africa, where it can reach up to 22m in height. It is an evergreen species whose serrated leaves have a glossy upper surface and a felted lower surface, and whose acorns are of variable shape up to 4cm in length. It is for the bark which this species is best known, and this specimen shows the typical rough, craggy, thick bark which is harvested commercially.</p> <p>Today cork is harvested mainly for the production of wine corks, but it has been used historically for buoys for nets and anchors, and also in the production of shoes, among others. The majority of commercial cork harvesting is carried out in Spain and Portugal, where cork is harvested at approximately nine year intervals for 50 years of the tree's life.</p>
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18	<p><i>Quercus velutina</i> 19900938 A</p>  	Black oak	Main Lawn (K9)	<p>This oak produces rich autumnal colours on the Main Lawn.</p> <p>The genus <i>Quercus</i> comprises between 400 and 450 species from North and Central America, Europe and Asia. <i>Q. velutina</i> (black oak) is an eastern North American species, which grows at altitudes up to 1200m in mixed, upland forests, dry and rocky slopes. In its native range it usually occurs on well-drained, acidic soils. It has deeply lobed leaves with a glossy upper surface, and produces round acorns which sit in a scaly, bowl-shaped cup. The wood of this species is used for furniture and construction, and the yellow colouring of the bark and fruit produces a yellow dye, quercitron.</p>
19	<p><i>Tilia endochrysea</i> 19935001 A</p> 		Gilbert Carter Woodland (H6)	<p>This specimen of the broad-leaved lime is tucked in the Gilbert Carter Woodland.</p> <p>Introduced into cultivation, and our collection, from Guangdong province, China, in 1993 by Dr Donald Pigott while Director of the Garden, <i>Tilia endochrysea</i> is seldom cultivated. It occurs in the wild in broad-leaved woodland in China, where it can reach 20m in height. The emerging foliage is a brilliant scarlet, turning a deeper wine colour as it matures, and gradually fading to a mid-green with a contrasting silvery underside. Though a hardy tree, the new, vibrant foliage is prone to frost damage. One of approximately 40 species of deciduous trees from Europe, Asia and North America, the genus used to belong to the lime family (Tiliaceae), but is now assigned to the mallow family (Malvaceae).</p>

20	<p><i>Tilia nobilis</i> 19955008 A</p> 	<p>Noble lime</p>	<p>Gilbert Carter Woodland (H6)</p>	<p>A rarity in cultivation this species is endemic to mountain forests of northern Yunnan and central to southern Sichuan, China.</p> <p>It has large leaves and produces cymes of flower in early summer which are followed by globular fruits which sit amongst large, pale bracts, which are the key distinguishing feature of this species. Our specimen was introduced to the Garden in 1995 and although immature has been assigned champion tree status as the largest of its kind in the UK.</p>
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