

BUTLER UNIVERSITY

Tree Walk

TAKE A WALK AROUND CAMPUS



Discover Native Trees

Butler's campus is home to native trees that reflect Indiana's history, support vital ecosystems, and face threats from invasive species—making their protection essential.



Learn to Identify Trees

Learning to identify trees helps us recognize their unique features, appreciate their diversity, and better understand the environments they shape.



Master Parts of a Tree

Learning about the parts of a tree—from roots and trunk to branches, leaves, and seeds—shows how each part plays a role in growth, survival, and supporting the ecosystem.

LEARN MORE

Scan the QR Code to...

- See more pictures of each species
- Learn more about their morphology
- Discover the Butler Herbarium!
- Locate trees on the Butler map



Kentucky yellowwood



Cladrastis kentukea, more commonly known as **Yellowwood** or **Kentucky yellowwood**, was newly planted on campus for National Arbor Day 2025. The tree is medium-sized, with alternate ladder-like leaves that turn a vibrant yellow in autumn. Its bark resembles that of an American beech, smooth, thin, and grayish in color.

Golden raintree



Koelreuteria paniculata, more commonly known as **Golden raintree** is a non-native tree originating in Southeast Asia. Tree is small, with double or triple trunks. Leaves are compound with broad leaflets. Mature trees sprout yellow flowers in June that "rain" on the ground once fallen.

Pin oak



Quercus palustris, commonly known as **Pin oak**, is a medium to large-sized native tree. Leaves are small, dark green, shiny, and smooth, turning a deep orange-red in the fall. Fruits are small acorns that are almost perfectly round and mature in two seasons.

Red oak



Quercus rubra, also known as the **Northern red oak**, is a large native tree with smooth, dark bark. Leaves are smooth, simple, and dark green, turning a characteristic vibrant red in autumn. Its fruit is a large acorn that is saucer-shaped and red-brown in color.

White pine



Pinus strobus, also known as **White pine**, is a native medium to large-sized evergreen tree. Characterized by its blue-green, soft needles that come in clusters of five and cones in the shape of a human index finger, about eight inches in length.

White oak



Quercus alba, more commonly known as the **White oak**, is a large, native tree with a broad, rounded crown. White oak has a close cellular structure, making it a rot and water-resistant wood, unlike the Red oak. Fruit is an oblong acorn that is green-brown in color. Commonly used in shipbuilding.

Ginkgo



Ginkgo biloba, also known as **Ginkgo** or **Maidenhair tree**, is a non-native medium-sized tree, and is the only surviving member of the Ginkgoaceae family. Leaves are distinct and have a cleft in the center making it bi-lobed, hence "biloba." Usually planted as an ornamental, it is native to Asia and is the only tree seen in Indiana with repeatedly branching veins.

Green ash



Fraxinus pennsylvanica, commonly known as **Green ash**, is a native medium-sized tree. Its most distinguishing feature is its bark, which is a light brown-gray with diamond-shaped furrows. While young, the tree appears to have green bark and twigs, giving it the name Green ash.

American basswood



Tilia americana, more commonly known as **American basswood** or **Linden**, is a native medium to large tree. Leaves are heart-shaped with a dark gray bark. Often used for beekeeping materials or cabinetry, and its flowers attract honeybees, producing basswood honey.

Tulip tree



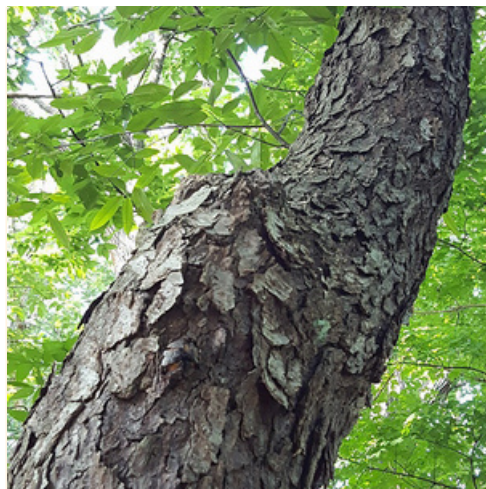
Liriodendron tulipifera, also known as **Tulip tree** or **Tulip poplar**, is Indiana's state tree. Leaves and flowers resemble the shape of a tulip, hence the name. A large tree, the tuliptree has thin gray bark with white fissures that become thick with deep furrows with age.

Sycamore



Platanus occidentalis, also known as the **American sycamore**, is one of the largest North American hardwoods, commonly used for furniture. The bark is white on the upper trunk, with leaves that are maple-like in shape

Black cherry



Prunus serotina, also known as **Black cherry**, is best known for its red-brown bark that is scaly, and its purple-black cherries. Its wood is commonly used for furniture and jam is often made using its fruits. Flowers are white and form in drooping clusters.

Osage orange



Maclura pomifera, also known as **Osage orange** is a short rounded tree with twisted branches native to South Central United States. Its wood is brown with some orange streaks, and leaf stems leak a sap when broken. While also having large yellow-green fruits, this tree was used as a bow wood by Native Americans and by pioneers for wagons.

Honey locust



Gleditsia triacanthos, more commonly known as **Honey locust**, is a native tree most known for its large, sharp thorns and seed pods containing a sweet, honey-like pulp. Its wood is strong and tolerant of drought and pollution. Due to its nectar, it attracts many birds and insects.

River birch



Betula nigra, commonly known as **River birch**, is a native tree most known for its peeling reddish-brown bark, giving it strong ornamental value. It thrives in wet conditions, making it useful for erosion control along streams. This tree is very useful in providing habitat for wildlife, with birds and deer using it for shelter.

Red maple



Acer rubrum, commonly known as **Red maple**, is a native tree most known for its vibrant red fall leaves. It is a popular choice for landscaping due to its adaptability, rapid growth, and attractive appearance throughout the year. Found in a wide range of habitats, its sap can be tapped for maple syrup with a lower sugar content than sugar maple.

Bur oak



Quercus macrocarpa, more commonly known as **Bur oak**, is a native tree with large, hairy acorns. Bark is gray-brown with deep furrows. Leaves are large and lobed, wood hardy and strong, resistant to many ecological disturbances and even fires.

Ohio buckeye



Aesculus glabra, also known as **Ohio buckeye**, is a medium-sized native tree with a broad, rounded crown with drooping branches. Flowers appear green-yellow in large, showy clusters. Its "buckeye" seeds resemble the eye of a deer, hence the name. When leaves, twigs, or bark are bruised, the tree produces a foul odor.

Dogwood



Cornus florida, commonly known as **Dogwood**, is a small native tree with a graceful, spreading form and layered branching. Its distinguishing feature is its showy white or pink petals that appear in spring, surrounding small central flowers. Leaves are oval with smooth edges and turn deep red in the fall.

Sugar maple



Acer saccharum, commonly known as the **Sugar maple**, is a large native tree most known for its sugary sap that makes maple syrup. Leaves are opposite, 5-lobed, and hand-like with wide notches. It is also valued for its fall appearance, with its leaves turning a bright orange in autumn.

White ash



Fraxinus americana, more commonly known as **White ash** or **American ash**, is a large native tree renowned for its wood. Leaves are oval with pointed tips, turning a bright yellow in the fall. Wood is commonly used for tool handles, baseball bats, furniture, and paneling.

Sweet gum



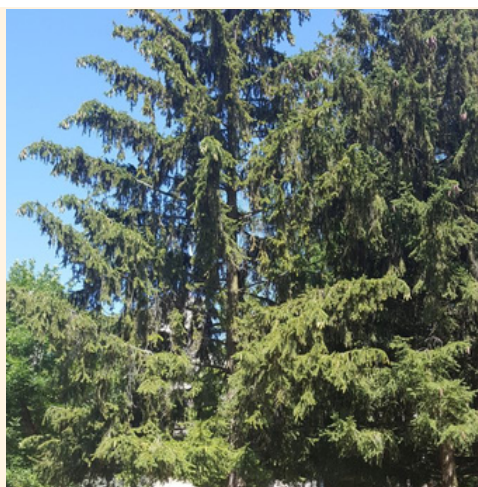
Liquidambar styraciflua, also known as **Sweet gum** or **Red gum** is a large native tree with a distinct spiny gum-ball like fruit. Leaves are star-shaped, alternate with five and occasionally seven points. Sometimes resembles Walnut, is an excellent timber tree that commonly grows with Pin oaks.

American beech



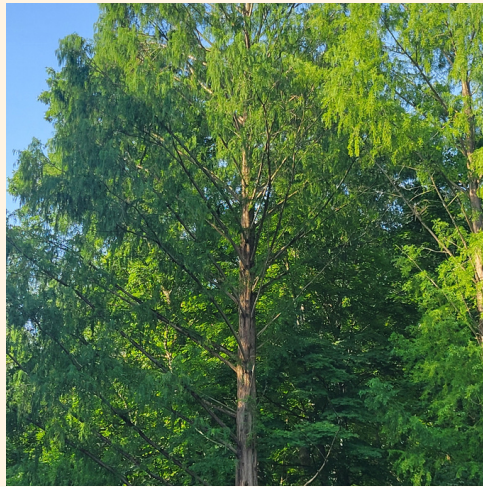
Fagus grandifolia, also known as **American beech**, is a large, native tree with characteristic thin, light blue-gray bark that is mostly smooth but prone to carvings and initials. Fruit is a spiny bur containing two nuts, called beechnuts, which are an important food source to many species in forests.

Eastern hemlock



Tsuga canadensis, also known as the **Eastern hemlock**, is a native medium evergreen tree with a pyramid-shaped crown. Leaves are needle-like and flattened but soft to the touch. Cones are brown and woody, not even an inch in length. Often planted as an ornamental evergreen in Indiana.

Dawn redwood



Metasequoia glyptostroboides, commonly known as **Dawn redwood**, is a non-native, fast-growing deciduous conifer with a pyramidal shape. Its distinguishing feature is its soft, feathery, bright green needles that turn a rich copper color in the fall. The tree has a straight trunk with reddish-brown, deeply furrowed bark.

Redbud



Cercis canadensis, commonly known as **Redbud**, is a small native tree with a spreading crown and often multiple trunks. Its distinguishing feature is its beautiful pink flowers that bloom in the spring. Leaves are heart-shaped with smooth edges.

Black walnut



Juglans nigra, also known as **Black walnut**, is a large native tree distinguished by its fruit, a large, round nut with a soft husk. Twigs are stout and brown, leaves are large, alternate and compound. Inner bark is a chocolate brown, and its wood is often used in furniture and cabinetry.

Hackberry



Celtis occidentalis, more commonly known as **Hackberry** or **Northern hackberry**, is a native medium to large tree with simple leaves. Its bark is gray with lots of grooves and bumps. Fruits are brown-purple and edible. Now starting to be used as more of an ornamental tree.

Blue spruce



Picea pungens, also known as **Blue spruce** or **Colorado blue spruce** is an introduced, small evergreen tree. Originating in the Rocky Mountains, this tree is a beautiful ornamental often planted near Indiana homes. Needles range from a bright green to a frosted blue, extremely sharp and pointed. When bruised, releases a pleasant, pungent odor.

Magnolia



Magnolia tripetala, also known as **Magnolia** or **Umbrella-tree** is a small understory tree with an open, spreading crown. Leaves are large and pointed, the largest simple leaves of any Indiana tree. Flowers are very large, white, and showy, making it a beautiful ornamental.