

A glimpse into what you will find in your visit to the Cypress Lawn Arboretum ...

As the hallmark of Bay Area cemeteries since our origin in 1892, over a century of growth has nurtured a place to celebrate life, where trees and people share a timeless connection...



Since our origin as a cemetery in 1892, Cypress Lawn has been a place to celebrate life, a historic and horticultural landmark that is a vital part of the living legacy of the San Francisco Bay Area.

Our founder, Hamden Holmes Noble, believed strongly in the power of trees to define the landscape, and his vision to grow a place worth knowing and celebrating has impacted a lasting arboricultural heritage that is alive to this day. Here now, at the internationally accredited Cypress Lawn Arboretum, we invite you to share a moment with the living wonders of our collection – with over one hundred species and two thousand individual trees, there is always more to see, more to learn, and much more to celebrate!

This self-guided walking tour will introduce you to twenty of our finest specimens, from our namesake native Monterey cypress, to exotic flora from half the world away. The kinship shared between humankind and trees is a relationship deeply rooted here at Cypress Lawn – step lightly, find your way, and this legacy is yours to embrace!

HOURS:

Visiting Hours: Everyday including New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.
Grounds: 8:00 am to 6:00 pm
Buildings: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Cemetery gates are closed after visiting hours.

Office Hours:
Monday – Friday: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Weekends/Holidays: 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

The cemetery office is closed on New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

CEMETERY ETIQUETTE:

- Cypress Lawn Cemetery & Arboretum is a sacred place. Visitors are requested to behave in a quiet and reverent manner.
- Cypress Lawn is an active cemetery. Visitors are asked to avoid areas where there are ongoing services or where families are visiting their loved ones.
- Pets are not allowed in the cemetery except for service dogs.
- Children under 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.
- Firearms and explosives are prohibited with the exception of the Military Honor Guards at burial ceremonies.
- Solicitation within cemetery premises is not allowed.
- We appreciate your input. Comments and inquiries may be submitted to the cemetery office.



Garden Cemetery/Funeral Homes/Cremation Society/
Crematory/Reception Center/Floral Shop

Phone: 650-755-0580
Website: www.cypresslawn.com



Tree Tour

Cypress Lawn Self-Guided Tree Tour

- 1 SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA** – *Magnolia grandiflora*
- Native to southeastern United States (North Carolina to Florida)
 - State tree of Mississippi, state flower of Louisiana
 - Prefers wet, swampy soils - often found by inland bodies of water
 - ‘Evergreen’ tree - does not go dormant during winter months
 - Also commonly called ‘bull bay’ - cattle eat leaves of this tree!

- 2 AMERICAN TULIP TREE** – *Liriodendron tulipifera*
- Native to eastern N. America (Ontario to Florida, east to Texas)
 - Also called ‘tulipwood’ / ‘fiddlewood’ / ‘whitewood’
 - State tree of Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee
 - ‘Deciduous’, or winter-dormant, tree - leaves emerge each April
 - Largest native tree of Eastern USA, can be 200+ feet in height
 - Many modern uses as timber species, including for instruments and coffins - also used by indigenous Americans for dugout canoes

- 3 BLUE GUM** – *Eucalyptus globulus*
- Look to northern and southern property boundaries of Cypress Lawn to see rows of these trees as you continue your walk
 - Native to southeastern Australia - now common as an introduced exotic in Mediterranean climates globally (including California)
 - Most of the boundaries of this Arboretum are defined by rows of these trees - historically planted to delineate a property edge
 - Introduced to California in mid-1800s as quick-growing timber for use on Southern Pacific Railroad track ties, but wood is too weak
 - Often considered invasive because of its ability to rapidly seed across the landscape and displace native vegetation, also its exfoliating bark and resin are a fire threat when unmanaged

- 4 LONDON PLANETREE** – *Platanus x acerifolia*
- Native to NOWHERE - cultivated variety / hybrid of American sycamore (*P. occidentalis*) and oriental plane (*P. orientalis*)
 - Famed tree of London metropolis, where it was planted extensively in Victorian era to reduce pollution, act as ‘lungs of the city’
 - Very tolerant of urban conditions where most trees could not survive, and today is the most widely planted global urban tree!
 - Known for ‘pollarding’ pruning technique, with branches cut back to ‘knuckles’ where growth will be concentrated the next spring

- 5 DEODAR CEDAR** – *Cedrus deodara*
- Native to Himalayan foothills of Nepal, India, Afghanistan
 - One of only three true cedar species (*C. libani*, *C. atlantica*)
 - Also called Himalayan cedar, and is the national tree of Pakistan
 - ‘Deodar’ is derived from Sanskrit (ancient language of Hinduism) ‘devādaru’, which translates to ‘wood of the gods’
 - Cultural significance for Ayurvedic medicine and meditation

- 6 EUROPEAN LAUREL** – *Laurus nobilis*
- Native to Mediterranean basin, also a widely planted ornamental
 - Commonly called ‘bay laurel’ - bay leaves used in global cuisine
 - Symbolic in Greco-Roman civilization - laurel wreath as a symbol for triumph / acclaim (Greek god Apollo was patron of sport)
 - The term ‘laureate’ (i.e. Nobel laureate) refers to immortality of success that this plant has represented for millenia

- 7 GINKGO / MAIDENHAIR** – *Ginkgo biloba*
- Native ancient stands only at the Tian Mu Shan Reserve in the southeastern Zhejiang province of China - trees were preserved by Buddhist monks, who regard ginkgos as sacred trees
 - The last surviving species of the ‘Ginkgophytes’, a 270-million year old group of plants that had a global distribution in ancient Gondwana - the ginkgo today is truly a living fossil!
 - Spread to Japan in 1800s through horticultural trade, then radiated globally via Dutch exportation out of Nagasaki - today it is commonly found in urban locations across the planet
 - Several individual trees survived within one mile of atomic bomb in Hiroshima (plants that lived through bomb called ‘*Hibakujumoku*’ - ‘被爆樹木’)

- 8 MONTEREY CYPRESS** – *Hesperocyparis macrocarpa*
- Native to Monterey peninsula of California - smallest native range of any tree (~2 square miles), ‘naturalized’ extensively
 - Widest global horticultural distribution of any California native tree - seed was collected by K.T. Hartweg for Royal Horticultural Society in 1846, then planted throughout Commonwealth
 - Often used as a hedgerow or windbreak tree on coastal farms in New Zealand, also is culturally significant as a memorial tree in Australia, especially in state of Victoria (Avenues of Honour)
 - Namesake tree of Cypress Lawn Arboretum - 200+ individuals in our collection, some as old as our origin in 1892, others just planted in 2020!

- 9 ENGLISH HOLLY** – *Ilex aquifolium*
- Native to southern and western Europe, commonly planted in cemeteries as an ornamental tree
 - Red berries are considered toxic - do contain traces of caffeine!
 - Notice ‘plasticity’ of ‘evergreen’ foliage - spines on margin of lower leaves, smooth margin of leaves higher on tree - this is an adaptation to grazing by ungulates and other large mammals!

- 10 NORFOLK ISLAND PINE** – *Araucaria heterophylla*
- Native to Norfolk Island in the Pacific Ocean between Australia and New Zealand - island is only 14 miles² with 2000 inhabitants
 - Tree is on the flag, and is the primary export of island economy
 - Norfolk Island was first known to western world via discovery by James Cook (Captain of HMS *Resolution*) in 1774 - Cook named the island after Mary Howard, the Duchess of Norfolk in Britain
 - Despite the intense winds of Cypress Lawn, this tree maintains perfect vertical growth, unlike many other windswept trees here

- 11 MONTEREY PINE** – *Pinus radiata*
- Native also to Monterey peninsula, sister species to our namesake cypress - this tree also has a global distribution despite its narrow native range, is prevalently grown for timber / forestry (can be harvested for long, straight lumber on 28-year rotation)
 - Susceptible to several pathogens here at Cypress Lawn and elsewhere, including bark beetle infestations and fungal epidemics (i.e. pine pitch canker, *Fusarium circinatum*)
 - One of three closed-cone pines native to California (Bishop pine and knobcone pine) - adapted to open cones and release seeds during a fire event - life history trait known as ‘serotiny’

- 12 IRISH YEWE** – *Taxus baccata* ‘Fastigiata’
- Native to Europe, southwestern Asia, and northern Africa
 - A staple of the horticultural palette of cemeteries - often referred to as ‘the tree of the dead’ in cemeteries around the world
 - Some of the longest-lived trees in the world, often over half a millennium and on occasion over 2000 years - the ‘Fortingall Yew’ in Perthshire, Scotland, is estimated to be between 2000 and 3000 years in age - believed to be the oldest tree in United Kingdom
 - Famous ancient yews at St. Edward’s Church, Stow-on-the-Wold, England - inspiration for J.R.R. Tolkien’s Doors of Durin
 - Latin ‘Fastigiata’ refers to ‘fastigate’ growth habit of this tree - tight crown with little spread and conical shape

- 13 PORT ORFORD CEDAR** – *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*
- Native to Oregon coast and south into northwestern California
 - Also called Lawson cypress, after Lawson & Son Nursery of Edinburgh, Scotland - introduced into cultivation in 1854
 - Very pungent aroma of foliage, which smells like parsley!
 - Timber is highly valued - great demand in Japan as alternative for native Hinoki cypress - wood for shrines, temples, coffins
 - This specimen is really a cluster of trees, several of which have emerged as root sprouts - a form of vegetative (asexual) reproduction - all the stems are genetically identical clones!

- 14 COAST LIVE OAK** – *Quercus agrifolia*
- A significant local native tree, this oak is one of three ‘live’, or ‘evergreen’, oaks native to California (interior (*Q. wislizenii*) and canyon (*Q. chrysolepis*) live oaks are the other two ‘live’ species)
 - This tree is the reason why Oakland is called Oakland! Originally the city was called ‘*encinal*’ - Spanish for ‘oak woodland’
 - Sudden oak death (a fungus called *Phytophthora*) is a threat
 - There are 19 oak species with native ranges including California - 9 are true tree species - they often hybridize with each other!

- 15 EUROPEAN BEECH** – *Fagus sylvatica*
- Native throughout much of Europe - north to Sweden, south to Sicily, west to France, and east to Turkey
 - Female fruits are called ‘beechnuts’ - they are edible!
 - Canopy orients to, and is shaped by, the wind, which is clear to see in the branching pattern when the tree is winter-dormant
 - Some of our beeches are copper variety ‘Purpurea’, which has purple to deep spinach green leaves, a horticultural rarity

- 16 CANARY ISLAND DATE PALM** – *Phoenix canariensis*
- Native to the Canary Islands (‘*Islas Canarias*’) - this tree is natural symbol of Spanish archipelago, 60 miles west of Morocco
 - Many ornamental plants originate from the Canary Islands, including a species of pine (*Pinus canariensis*) and the ivy that is often seen growing on this palm (*Hedera canariensis*)
 - The fruit is edible, although not as tasty as that of the true date palm, *Phoenix dactylifera* (native to the Middle East)
 - This species, while a favorite plant of our founder Hamden Holmes Noble, is now listed as an invasive species in California - nevertheless, an important living legacy of Cypress Lawn!

- 17 MAYTEN** – *Maytenus boaria*
- Native to South America, including Chile and Argentina
 - Weeping ‘evergreen’ foliage, inconspicuous flowers, tiny red fruits
 - Readily dispersed by birds, and seeds germinate after fires
 - Now classified as invasive species in several countries, including New Zealand - also on CAL-IPC’s (California Invasive Plant Council) list as an invasive species (Rating = Watch)
 - Has capacity to ‘return from the dead’ - biological ability to resprout ‘suckers’ from roots several meters away from the original tree, even years after this tree has been cut down!

- 18 BLUE ATLAS CEDAR** – *Cedrus atlantica* ‘Glaucua’
- Native to Atlas Mountains of Morocco and Algeria in north Africa
 - ‘Blue’ atlas cedars are a ‘cultivar’ (cultivated variety) of *Cedrus atlantica*, so-called because of their ‘glaucous’ foliage - this adaptation allows leaves to reflect sunlight more efficiently
 - There is an atlas cedar on South Lawn of White House, in which President Jimmy Carter had a treehouse built for daughter, Amy

- 19 RED-FLOWERING GUM** – *Corymbia ficifolia*
- Native to southwest corner of Western Australia, very small native range, like that of the Monterey cypress in California
 - ‘Lignotuber’ is characteristic of this species, woody swelling of the root crown at the base of the stem - also called ‘root collar burls’, these are common in coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*)
 - Used to be known by Latin name *Eucalyptus ficifolia* - in 1995, with DNA sequencing, the evolutionary tree of the eucalypt group was reorganized to include the new genus *Corymbia*
 - ‘*ficifolia*’ refers to the foliage of the red-flowering gum, which resembles the leaves of species from the *Ficus* (fig tree) genus

- 20 CORK OAK** – *Quercus suber*
- Native to southwestern Europe and northwestern Africa, has been present in Mediterranean basin since Tertiary period (66 million years ago)
 - The bark of this tree species is the traditional source of cork for wine bottles and other cork products - can be harvested once every nine years without killing the tree - a renewable resource!
 - Portugal and Spain are well known for ‘*montados*’, agroforestry cultural landscapes from which cork is harvested
 - This tree is a known ‘pyrophyte’, meaning that it is well-adapted to survive major fire events - bark is very fire-tolerant!
 - Relationship of cork oak at Cypress Lawn with nearby monuments of well-known vintners, including Charles Niebaum of Inglenook Vineyards

