University of Oregon
Significant Trees of Campus

**Old Campus Quad, South**
As you pass between Friendly and Allen Halls, you will come upon what is known as the Old Campus Quad. This quad is dominated by mature evergreens of several different species. The infamous Columbus Day Storm of 1962 took down a great number of large trees, but the campus recovered quickly. This part of the quad boasts several types of cedars including two of the three types of “true” cedars (genus *Cedrus*).

1. **Giant Sequoia (Sequoiadendron giganteum)**
   - Native to the western slope of the California Sierra Nevada mountains, this species is native to an area from the Cascade mountains in Oregon to the Sierra Nevada mountains and into Baja California. It is distinctive with its large, smooth bark, and a hollow stem at the base. It can be recognized by its leaves, which are reduced to tiny scales. The giant sequoia is the largest tree in the world, measured by volume (1859).

2. **Cedar-of-Lebanon (Cedrus libani)**
   - These two large distinctive trees are fine examples of one of the true cedars. This species is native to Asia Minor and is named for the historical forests of Lebanon. There are many ancient references to this species of tree.

3. **Sita Spruce (Picea sitchensis)**
   - The sitka spruce is the largest type of spruce in the world, with some old-growth examples reaching close to 300 feet. Sitka spruce can be identified by its gray, scaly bark, small cones, and sharp flattened needles. The sitka spruce is the major lumber tree of Alaska, as its wood possesses great strength and workability. It is famous for its role in aircraft (most notably during World War II) and boat construction, as well as for musical instruments (especially guitar tops and sounding boards for pianos).

4. **Big Leaf Maple (Acer macrophyllum)**
   - This tree species, whose native range is from Alaska to California, is one of the few maples native to Oregon. This particular tree is believed to be the sole survivor of the first successful planting effort on the UO campus (1884). The UO janitor carried out this planting after an unsuccessful planting of trees by students from the previous year; he was paid for each tree that survived.

5. **Coast Redwood (Sequoia sempervirens)**
   - Native to foggy, coastal southern Oregon and Central California, this is the tallest giant tree species in the world, regularly achieving heights of 300-350 feet and diameters of 16-18 feet. In the absence of year-long ambient moisture and subject to drying summer winds, trees here in Eugene will not reach these giant dimensions.

6. **Ginkgo, or Maidenhair Tree (Ginkgo biloba)**
   - Native to southeast China, this tree is another example (beside the dawn redwood) of an ancient species. It can be recognized by its distinctive fan-shaped leaves. The ginkgo is either a male tree or a fruit-bearing female tree. This female tree bears very strong-smelling plum-shaped fruit in the autumn. It is believed that the ginkgo species has existed for 128 million years. There is fossil evidence of it having existed in Oregon, but it survived only in China until being reintroduced to the U.S. in 1790.

7. **California Incense Cedar (Calocedrus decurrens)**
   - This species is native to an area from the Cascade mountains in Oregon to the Sierra Nevada mountains and into Baja California. It has distinctive curved branches and aromatic seeds and foliage. It is a tough, adaptable ornamental, and the lumber is the leading source of pencil wood; it is also used in cedar chests and closets.

8. **Oregon White Oak (Quercus garryana)**
   - This tree is one of the original two “Gordon Oaks” (the other was removed in 2004 due to its poor condition). When Deady and Villard were built, the campus was a treeless knob with the exception of these two oak trees. Native from British Columbia south to the central California coast, Oregon white oaks are slow growing. This is the oldest tree on campus, likely predating Oregon Statehood (1859). It was adopted as a class tree by the class of 1897.

**North of Robinson Theatre**
This area is home to several interesting and mature trees, including a male ginkgo and one of the oldest dawn redwoods on campus.

9. **Ponderosa Pine (Pinus ponderosa)**
   - A tree with a large native range (from British Columbia to Mexico and Texas), this tree is most common at medium elevations in the western U.S. Two are likely a variety called a valley ponderosa, which can be found in valleys in western Oregon and Washington. The ponderosa pine is one of the major lumber trees of North America. It also has significant spiritual significance to many western native cultures, especially several Navajo groups.

**South of Robinson Theatre, Class Trees**
This area south of Villard Hall and Robinson Theatre boasts many class trees and some interesting tree specimens.

10. **Giant Sequoia (Sequoiadendron giganteum)**
    - Native to the western slope of the California Sierra Nevada mountains, this species of tree has been called the “largest living thing on earth.” This is the 1880 class tree. While not as tall as the coast redwood, the giant sequoia has a notably wider trunk. It can achieve heights of 250-275 feet and diameters of 15-20 feet, but some are 300 feet tall and have a diameter of more than 30 feet!

11. **Japanese Cedar (Cryptomeria japonica)**
    - This conifer is native to Japan (where it is the national tree). It is widely planted around temples and is highly prized for ornament and lumber. In its native range these fast-growing trees can grow 180 feet tall and 12 feet in diameter, though most varieties are much smaller. This particular tree is the 1879 class tree, the oldest class tree on campus.

**Deady Walk**
This arrangement of trees is known as Deady Walk and once represented the primary entrance to campus from town. Still an important feature on campus, it consists of a path lined with mature firs that are replanted over time as needed.

This self-guided tour is an introduction to some of the many fascinating trees on the University of Oregon campus. The marked route of the tour is about one mile long and will take approximately one hour to complete. Begin at the Heart of Campus at the intersection of 13th Avenue and University Street.
12 - Douglas-Fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii)
The state tree of Oregon and a quintessential symbol of the Northwest, this is the major timber tree of North America. This species’ native range is from British Columbia to Mexico and Texas. The douglas-fir is the second-tallest-growing tree species in the world, behind only the coast redwood. The tallest known douglas-fir is in Coos County, southwest of Eugene, with a height of 328 feet, though old-growth examples typically range from 200-250 feet. The wood has a strength-to-weight ratio approaching that of steel and is prized for timber construction.

Business Complex courtyard
13 - Yellow Buckeye (Aesculus octandra)
Native to central and southeast U.S. (Appalachia), the yellow buckeye is the largest of all the buckeyes and is related to the horse-chestnut. Native Americans ate the nuts after leaching toxins from them. This tree was received from the governor of Ohio and Ohio State University in 1958 as the result of a bet on that year’s Rose Bowl Game between Ohio State and Oregon.

Memorial Quad
14 - Pyramidal English Oak (Quercus robur 'Pyramidalis')
The English oak, native to Europe, North Africa, and West Asia, is an iconic species whose strong wood has been prized for centuries. These eight English oaks are a cultivar of English oak having a pyramidal form. They were purchased in Illinois and sent by train to Eugene and were planted in 1939 in memorial of Robert Chase Bailey, senior class president of 1929, who had drowned in the Millican.

Gerlinger Corridor
15 - California Bay (Umbellularia californica)
This evergreen, found in both shaded streambeds and exposed hillside along the west coast, has pungently fragrant foliage. Typically multi-trunked, this specimen is particularly so, probably due to it being pruned as a shrub in the early part of the 20th century. The wood (sometimes called Oregon myrtlewood) is also valuable for woodworking.

Women’s Memorial Quad
16 - Purple-Leaf European Beech (Fagus sylvatica 'Atropurpurea')
A university tree that truly stands out with its smooth grey bark, low branches, and purple-green leaves, this is a spectacular example of a mature European beech, native to central Europe, which was planted in the early 1900s. This is a purple-leaved cultivar whose leaves turn copper in autumn.

Other Stops

Self-guided Tour
Campus Trees of Interest
April 2007
You are invited to come and explore the trees of the University of Oregon Campus. The campus today is a 295-acre arboretum containing well over 3,000 trees of more than 500 species. This self-guided tour will introduce you to some of the most significant trees on campus.

Prepared by the University Planning Office (http://uplan.uoregon.edu/)