



# **PARK STEWARD** NEWSLETTER

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Madison Square Park

Fall 2025

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# 2025 FOLIAGE REPORT

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With 80-degree temperatures into the middle of October, it's hard to believe that we are two weeks into autumn. This year's fall foliage report is lackluster. As you walk through the city this fall, you may notice more muted colors, mostly brown leaves and dried green leaves. This is the result of hot, dry weather, combined with previous environmental stress.

For the past two years, New York has experienced some unusual weather patterns that have put considerable stress on trees throughout the region. Last year, NYC experienced one of the most drastic droughts on record. These conditions led to a significant number of wildfires in the city and beyond. Drought has long-term impacts on trees, and while some trees show immediate stress or death, others do not present damage until the next season when their stored resources have been fully depleted.

This year presented continued challenges with a cold and wet spring followed by drought into the late summer and fall. Periods of no rain and intense rain are challenging for tree root growth and development. Tree roots that do not find water are discarded by trees to conserve resources, while roots sitting in waterlogged soils die.

These stressors invited a plethora of opportunistic pests and diseases. We logged a record number of pest and disease sightings in the park, including spider mites, scale, bacterial pathogens, fungi and more.



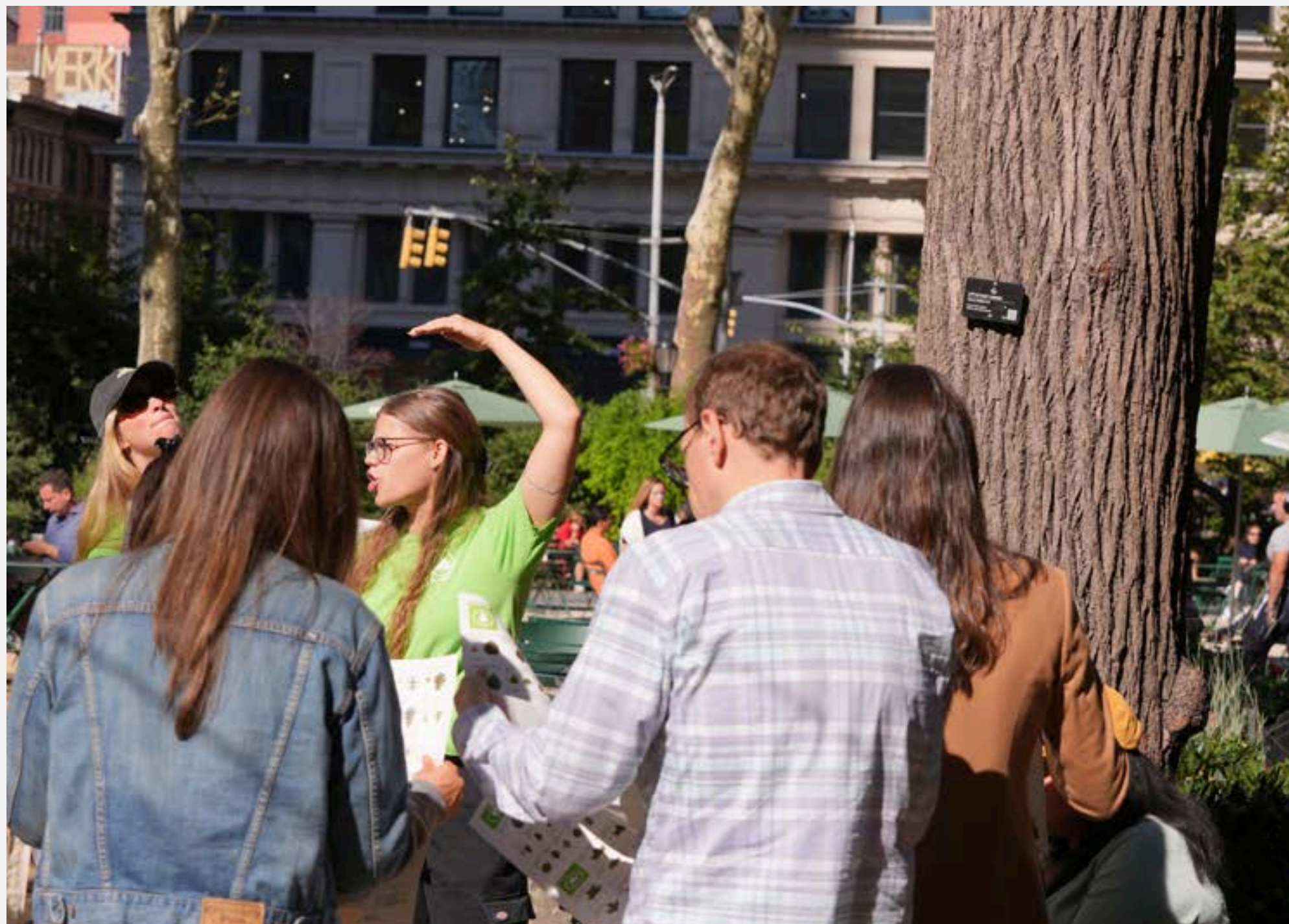


The good news is earlier this summer I walked through the park with Tim Wenskus, our New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) Urban Forester, and he commented on how impressed he was by the condition of Madison Square Park's trees compared to the rest of the region. Trees need care and stewardship now more than ever. We are grateful to NYS DEC, Con Edison, Sasha C. and Edward P. Bass, and everyone who has contributed to the care of our tree canopy. **Thank you for your support in caring for this vital public resource.**

# THE NYC TREE CENSUS

Every ten years, NYC Parks conducts a comprehensive inventory of the city's urban forest with the help of volunteers and partners. Madison Square Park was excited to host one of the largest groups of tree census volunteers this fall. Volunteers were given onsite training on how to count, measure and identify trees at our site and how to apply that knowledge to other sites.





This process, combined with data from a team of surveyors conducting ground-based light detection and ranging scans (LiDAR), will help inform where the urban canopy can be expanded.

Madison Square Park Conservancy will be using this foundational data to assist in the next edition of our tree conservation plan.

## PREPARING FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

In 1912, Madison Square Park Conservancy was the site of the first public holiday tree lighting in the United States. We are excited to bring our 113th holiday tree into the park this December. This year's tree, a concolor or white fir, hails from a family farm in Hornell, New York that has been in business for over 70 years.

The white fir, *Abies concolor*, is the most popular species for large holiday trees in the United States. These trees are native to the western United States, growing from the Northern Cascades to New Mexico. In the wild they can reach heights of 80-130 feet, but in cultivation they typically only reach 70 feet. They are variable in color, ranging from green to blue, and produce upright cones when they are more than 40 years old.



The Madison Square Park tree stands 42 feet tall and weighs 6 tons. **Please join us on December 9th at 5pm for the official lighting and other holiday festivities!**

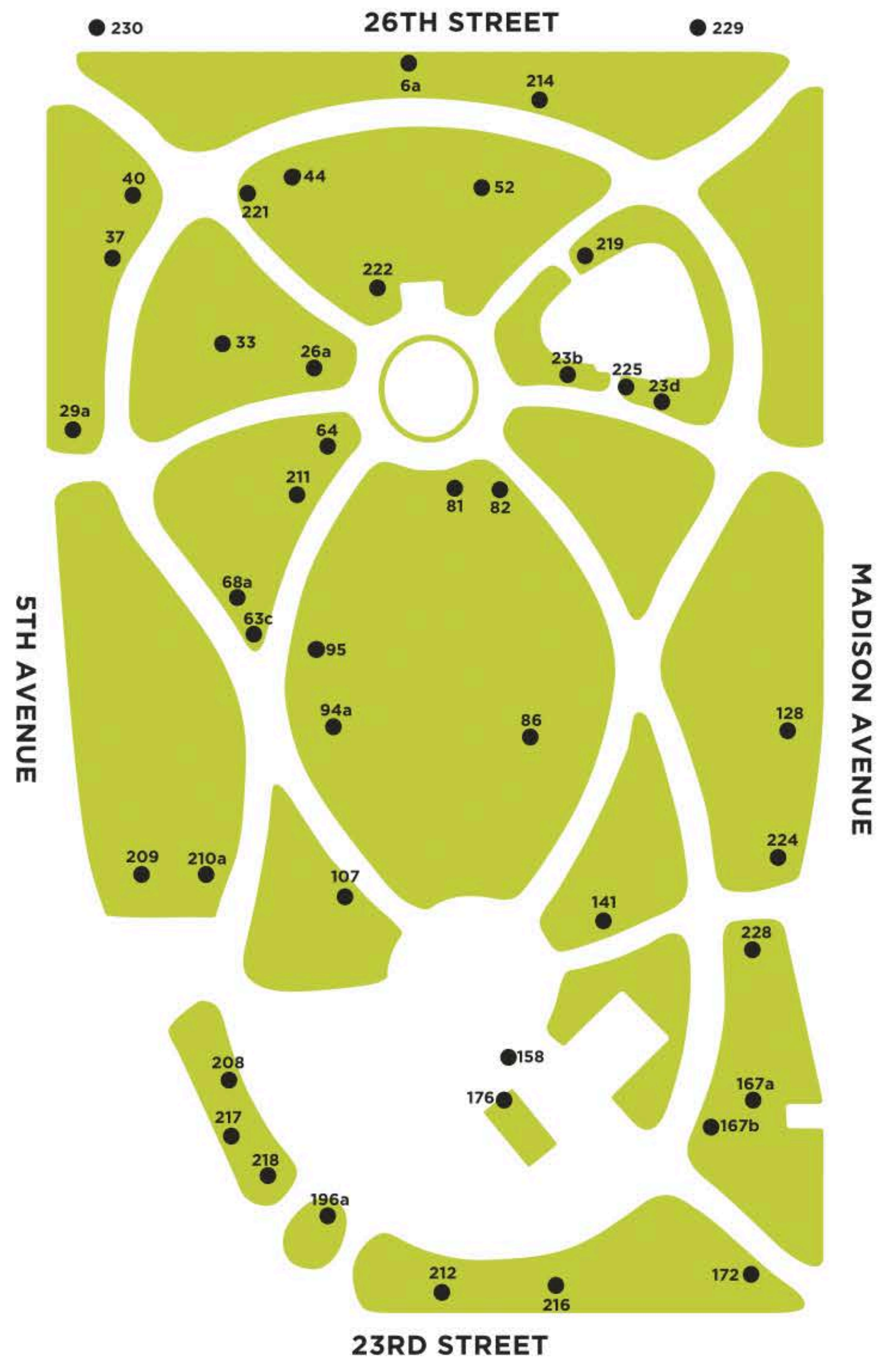




MEET THE COLLECTION  
CAMELLIA  
KEEP AN EYE OUT  
ASST. BLOOM 3- FALL

# MADISON SQUARE PARK ARBORETUM MAP

#	COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME
6A	Japanese katsura	<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>
23B	Japanese snowbell	<i>Styrax japonicus</i>
23D	Cornelian cherry	<i>Cornus mas</i>
26A	Persian ironwood	<i>Parrotia persica</i>
29A	Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i> 'Floating Clouds'
33	Kwanzan cherry	<i>Prunus serrulata</i> 'Kwanzan'
37	Swamp white oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>
40	Wych elm	<i>Ulmus glabra</i>
44	Pagoda tree	<i>Styphnolobium japonicum</i>
52	English elm	<i>Ulmus procera</i>
63C	Carolina silverbell	<i>Halesia carolina</i> 'UConn Wedding Bells'
64	Pin oak	<i>Quercus palustris</i>
68A	Red buckeye	<i>Aesculus pavia</i>
81	English elm	<i>Ulmus procera</i>
82	Horse chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>
86	Ginkgo	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>
94A	Yellowwood	<i>Cladrastis kentukea</i>
95	Chinese elm	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>
107	London plane	<i>Platanus × acerifolia</i>
128	Red oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
141	Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>
158	Littleleaf linden	<i>Tilia cordata</i>
167A	Dove tree	<i>Davidia involucreta</i> 'Sonoma'
167B	Japanese apricot	<i>Prunus mume</i> 'Peggy Clarke'
172	Downy hawthorn	<i>Crataegus mollis</i>
176	Washington hawthorn	<i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i>
196A	Kousa dogwood	<i>Cornus kousa</i>
208	Weeping tupelo	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> 'Autumn Cascade'
209	Sweet gum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> 'Slender Silhouette'
210A	Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i> 'JN16'
211	Chinese fringe tree	<i>Chionanthus retusus</i> 'Tokyo Tower'
212	Musclewood	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> 'J.N. Globe'
214	Southern magnolia	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>
216	Chinese ironwood	<i>Parrotia subaequalis</i>
217	Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier × grandiflora</i> 'Autumn Brilliance'
218	Chinese fringe tree	<i>Chionanthus retusus</i> 'China Snow'
219	Fringe tree	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>
221	American basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i> 'McKSentry'
222	Red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i> 'PNI 0268'
224	Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i> 'NC2016-2'
225	Crabapple	<i>Malus</i> 'Donald Wyman'
228	Black locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> 'Purple Robe'
229	Musclewood	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>
230	Silver linden	<i>Tilia tomentosa</i> 'PNI 6051'





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