

16b. Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) ☹

~ 2563 Waverley St, next to driveway

Eastern Redbuds are thirstier cousins to our native Western Redbud. Redbuds are known for their late winter display of bright pink, pealike flowers covering their bare branches. In summer, the delicate branches sport heart-shaped leaves. Fall color varies from yellow to orange.

17. Hollywood Juniper (*Juniperus chinensis* ‘Torulosa’) ☑

~ 2580 Waverley St, 3 trees on right side

Junipers were very popular landscaping plants in the 1960s, but have fallen out of favor in recent years. Hollywood Junipers are a tree form of juniper that has a windswept form even without the wind. Its twisted form becomes more impressive as it ages.

18a. Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum*) ☹

~ 2599 Waverley St, many trees in yard

This yard has an extensive collection of Japanese maples that demonstrate the great variety in form, leaf shape and leaf color of Japanese maples.

18b. Persimmon (*Diospyros kaki* ‘Hachiya’)

~ 2599 Waverley St, Colorado side yard by fence

Persimmons are wonderful, small to medium garden trees. Besides their tasty fruit, persimmons have terrific fall color, their large, glossy leaves glowing in electric orange. This ‘Hachiya’ cultivar produces astringent, acorn-shaped fruit, which must be left to ripen after it is picked.

19. Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*) ☑

~ 445 Colorado Ave, right of driveway

Native to the Sierra Nevada, the vertical sprays of foliage and peeling bark are a unique identifying features. They are lovely and interesting conifers, native to the Sierra Nevada and Cascade mountains. They tend to struggle in the Bay Area.

20. Carob (*Ceratonia siliqua*) ☑

~ 464 Colorado Ave, corner of Kipling

The trunks of Carob trees are gnarled, burly, and twisted. The almost round, dark green, glossy leaflets densely cover the tree. Female trees have hard, 6” long seed pods

that contain edible seeds used as a chocolate substitute. This evergreen tree is extremely drought-tolerant, and easily maintained as a smaller street tree.

21. Modesto Ash (*Fraxinus velutina* ‘Modesto’) ☹

~ 2642 Kipling St, dominant street tree

Popular street tree from the 1950s-1960s, Modesto Ashes were thought to be bullet-proof. Unfortunately, their narrow branch angles caused limbs to split off. No longer planted in Palo Alto, the Autumn Purple Ash is a current substitute.

22. Australia Tea Tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*) ☑

~ 2712 Kipling St, back right corner of yard

Native to Australia and New Zealand, this small tree is called tea tree because Captain Cook brewed tea from its leaves and gave it to his crew as a scurvy preventative. It grows to 10-13’ with finely textured foliage and blooms in spring.

23. European Hackberry (*Celtis australis*) ☹

~ 470 El Dorado Ave, center of front yard

A medium-sized, round-topped tree with small dark purple fruit and yellow leaf color in fall. The bark is smooth with warty protuberances. Honeydew from wooly hackberry aphids can make a mess, and the roots can cause sidewalk damage.

24. Chinese Tallow (*Triadica sebifera*) ☹

~ 475 El Dorado Ave, center front

Formerly known as *Sapium sebiferum*, the Chinese Tallow is a smaller deciduous tree with wonderful fall color, in yellows, oranges and reds. Listed by CAL-IPC as an invasive exotic tree.

25. Chinese Hackberry (*Celtis sinensis*) ☹

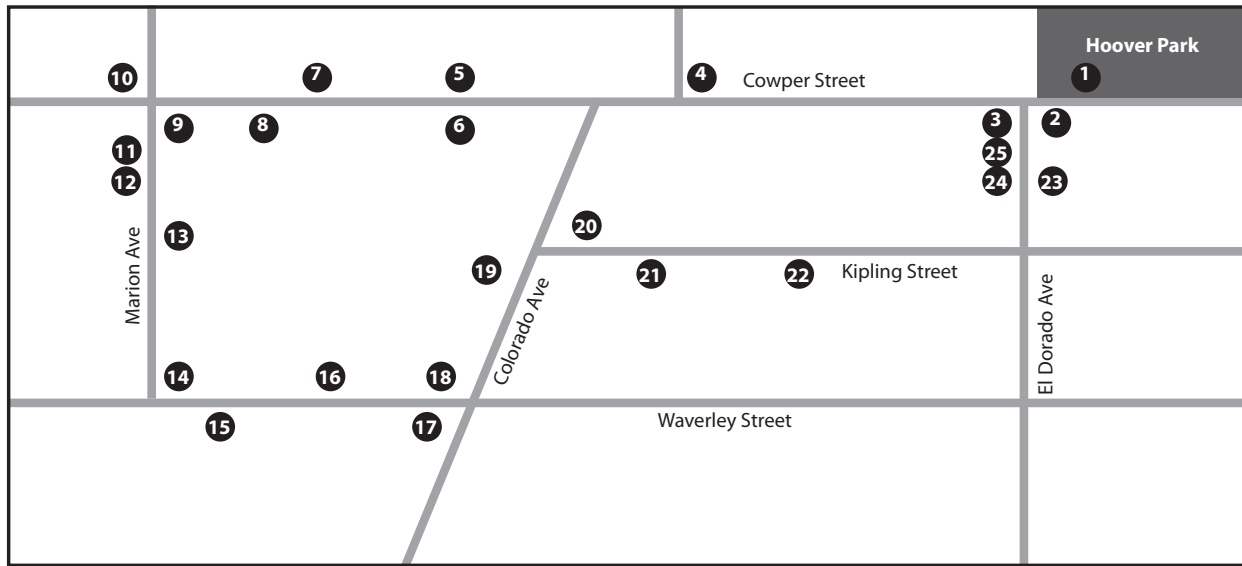
~ 485 El Dorado Ave, by driveway

The glossy leaves and somewhat rougher bark of this tree distinguishes it from the European Hackberry. Inconspicuous flowers are followed by orange, quarter-inch fruits that hang from stems on this fairly drought-tolerant shade tree. Palo Alto stopped planting this tree due to pest issues.

Midtown

“The true meaning of life is to plant trees,
under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”

~ Nelson Henderson



1. Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) ☹
 ~ Hoover Park, near the tennis courts

The Blue Gum is a widely cultivated tree in Australia, but considered an invasive species in California. The tree is known as Blue Gum for its blue-grey, waxy leaves that are used to extract eucalyptus oil. The bark sheds in large strips, and cream-colored flowers produce honey.

2. California Pepper (*Shinus molle*) ✓
 ~ 2802 Cowper St, near corner of El Dorado

This misnamed tree is native to Western Peru, where it can grow at elevations of up to 10,000 feet. Brought to California in the 1830s, this fast-growing, drought-tolerant tree is best grown in dry conditions to avoid root rot problems.

3. Brazilian Pepper (*Shinus terebinthifolius*) ☹
 ~ 2796 Cowper St, on El Dorado near fence

Contrary to its common name, it is also native to Peru. The dark green glossy leaves are divided into 5-13 oval leaflets. Its bright red berries are very showy in winter and are sold as pink peppercorns. Listed by California Invasive Plant Council (CAL-IPC) as an invasive exotic, especially near riparian areas.

4. Fig (*Ficus carica*) ✓
 ~ 500 Colorado Ave, right side on Cowper

This is an edible fig, 'Black Mission' and 'Brown Turkey' are consistently good local varieties. Tolerates some drought, but best fruiting is achieved with light supplemental watering. Figs achieve their best form with some space.

5. Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*) ⚖ ✓
 ~ 2601 Cowper St, right side

"California's mightiest oak," according to Sunset's Western Garden Book. No other native oak in California matches the sheer size or spread of an old Valley Oak. Valley Oaks and Coast Live Oaks were the predominant native trees in Palo Alto prior to development. A Valley Oak should dictate the other landscaping around it. Irrigation within the root zone will cause root crown fungus to develop, leading to death of the tree.

6. Silk Tree (*Albizia julibrissin*) ✓
 ~ 2596 Cowper St, right of driveway

This fast-growing deciduous tree resembles an umbrella as it matures. In summer it is covered with fluffy pink flowers. The flowers are a bit messy, so the tree is best planted among planting beds. It attracts birds to the garden and is native throughout Asia from Iran to Japan.

7. Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*)
 ~ 2579 Cowper St, right and left sides of yard

This large, majestic tree, native to the Atlas Mountains of Morocco and Algeria, was used for shipbuilding in ancient Greece. Needles cluster on the tops of the branches and its shorter, stiffer needles distinguish this cedar from the Deodar Cedar. It needs a large area for full development and should not be crowded. Its wood has a strong scent that repels insects and is excellent for carpentry.

8. Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) ⚖ ✓
 ~ 2540 Cowper St, center front yard

This wonderful, large specimen is at least 200 years old. The Coast Live Oak is an evergreen native throughout much of California. They grow relatively quickly to 70' with an equal spread. Once established, they tolerate drought very well; summer watering should be avoided.

9. Coast Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) ⚖ ⚖
 ~ 2512 Cowper St, 4 trees near the street corner

The Coast Redwood is America's tallest tree and lives to well over 1,000 years. Locally, only the landmark Coast Redwood called El Palo Alto is that old. Most local Coast Redwoods were logged by the early 1900s, to help rebuild San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake. Although redwoods are protected by Palo Alto city ordinances, they should no longer be considered suitable trees to plant, due to their excessive water requirements and poor drought tolerance.

10. Australian Willow (*Geijera parviflora*) ✓ ☹
 ~ 2499 Cowper St, street tree on corner

A graceful, fine-textured tree from Australia. The foliage is similar to the Weeping Willow, but it is unrelated. It is no longer recommended for planting because of structural problems and poor performance. Trees that grow to maturity tend to have structural issues.

11. Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*)
 ~ 485 Marion Ave, front yard center

This deciduous oak from the northeastern US grows quickly to 60-80' high and 40-60' wide. Fall color ranges from yellow to shades of orange and scarlet red. This species tends to hold its brown dormant leaves well into winter. The Scarlet Oak grows deep roots and is planted

as a street tree in a few areas of Palo Alto.

12. Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*)
 ~ 475 Marion Ave, near right corner of the house

If a tree is blooming bright purple during summer, you can bet it's a Jacaranda. A popular street in Santa Barbara, this Brazilian native sports large clusters of purple flowers all summer, followed by disc-like seed pods. A deciduous tree with delicate fernlike leaves, Jacarandas are a bit frost-sensitive.

13. Camphor (*Cinnamomum camphora*)
 ~ 400 block Marion Ave, dominant street tree

The most common street tree on this block is the Camphor, from China and Japan. The new leaves of the evergreen tree are often tinged with pink or red. Crushing the shiny leaves gives a camphor odor. Because of its habit of lifting sidewalks, Camphors are no longer considered appropriate street trees in Palo Alto.

14. Canary Island Pine (*Pinus canariensis*) ✓
 ~ 2501 Waverley St, left of the house

The distinguishing characteristic of this pine is the needle growth. In bundles of three, new needles point upwards and old needles downwards. As the common name implies, they are native to the Canary Islands, and are an excellent substitute for Monterey Pines. It's resistant to oak root fungus, relatively pest free, and drought tolerant when established.

15. Italian Stone Pine (*Pinus pinea*) ✓
 ~ 2510 Waverley St, street tree at center

Italian Stone Pines have been cultivated for at least 6,000 years for their edible seeds, called pignolis. In maturity, they have large, relatively short trunks, and broadly spreading, umbrella-shaped crowns. They require a great deal of space to properly mature. (The tree to right is a Monterey Pine.)

16a. Windmill Palm (*Trachycarpus fortunei*) ✓
 ~ 2563 Waverley St, front right by driveway

Windmill palms are short, compared to other palms, and can be easily identified by their hairy trunks. Although their flowers are inconspicuous, they are noticeably fragrant. This is an unusual specimen with 7 trunks.