

chestnuts are fast-growing, deciduous trees. In the autumn, they produce fruit covered in needle-like burrs, which contain edible nuts. They were planted by the American Chestnut Foundation's ongoing restoration project to help restore the D.C. American chestnut population wiped out by the blight.

25. Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum

The Japanese maple is a small, deciduous tree native to East Asia. It has distinctive leaves which have lobes arranged in a hand-like fashion. The leaves are the reason for one of the *Acer palmatum*'s Japanese names: kaede, derived from the old term for "frog hands".



26. Yoshino Cherry

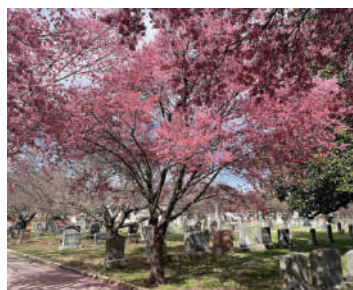
Prunus x yedoensis

The Yoshino cherry tree is a hybrid of the *Prunus specioca* (Oshima cherry) and *Prunus pendula f. Ascendens* (Edo Higan) cherries. The Yoshino cherry is iconic of Washington, D.C.'s cherry blossom season and of the tidal basin; the first Yoshino cherries in Washington were a diplomatic gift from Japan. Yoshino cherries were planted in Congressional Cemetery to echo that sentiment of peace.

27. Okamé Cherry

Prunus x incam

The Okamé cherry is a small, early-blooming cherry with delicate, deep pink blooms. The Okamé is a hybrid of *Prunus incisa* (Fuji cherry) and *Prunus campanulata* (Taiwan or bellflower cherry). Congressional Cemetery's Okamé cherries were planted in 2004 as part of the creation of the 9/11 Memorial Trail.



Scan here to see our Arboretum Database!



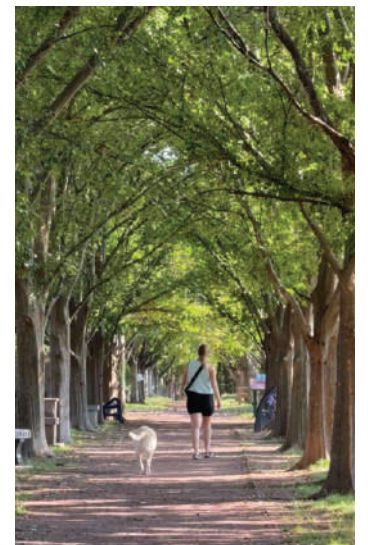
DC's Greatest Undertaking

ESTABLISHED 1807

Walking Tour
TREE WALK THROUGH HISTORY

Historic Congressional Cemetery is more than a historic site and active burial ground; it is also an urban oasis in the heart of Washington, DC. For more than two centuries, visitors have come not only to honor those laid here to rest, but to walk its tree-lined paths, reflect, and find a moment of quiet in the midst of a busy city.

As Washington continues to grow, landscapes like Congressional Cemetery play an increasingly important role by providing shade, clean air, recreation, and a meaningful connection to the natural world. Through thoughtful grounds management, an Adopt-A-Plot program, sustainable practices, and green burial options, the cemetery works to preserve and enhance this living landscape for future generations.



Enjoy a Tree Walk Through History and discover the remarkable trees that shape the cemetery's landscape. Tree tags and QR codes provide additional information about many of the species along the walk. While not a complete inventory, this curated collection forms the foundation of the cemetery's effort to achieve accredited arboretum status, recognizing its ongoing commitment to tree stewardship and education.

Join us!

The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization established in 1976 and dedicated to the restoration, interpretation, and management of Congressional Cemetery. It is predominantly a volunteer-based organization relying on over 400 neighbors, history buffs, conservators, dogwalkers, and armed forces personnel each year to help restore and maintain this national treasure. In 1979, the Association succeeded in having Congressional Cemetery listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It became a National Historic Landmark in 2011. Please join the association or make a donation to help the cemetery in its third century of service to the nation's capital.

Funding for the preservation and maintenance of Historic Congressional Cemetery is provided in part by the Congressional Cemetery Endowment, which was created with matching funds provided by the Congress of the United States and administered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The property is owned by Christ Church Washington Parish.



Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery

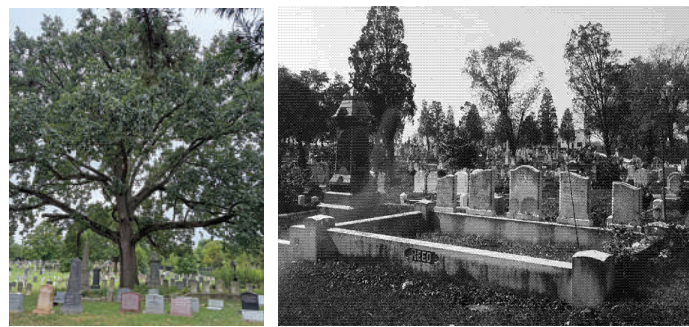
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1. Swamp White Oak
Quercus bicolor



The swamp white oak is a member of the beech family that has furrowed bark, acorns, and leaves that are multi-lobed, green and grey, and egg-shaped. HCC's swamp oak is over 120 years old, documented in photographs from 1913 as a young tree.

2. Kousa Dogwood
Cornus kousa

A flowering tree native to China, Korea, and Japan, it has teardrop-shaped leaves and pink or white blooms in spring.



3. Silver Linden
Tilia tomentosa

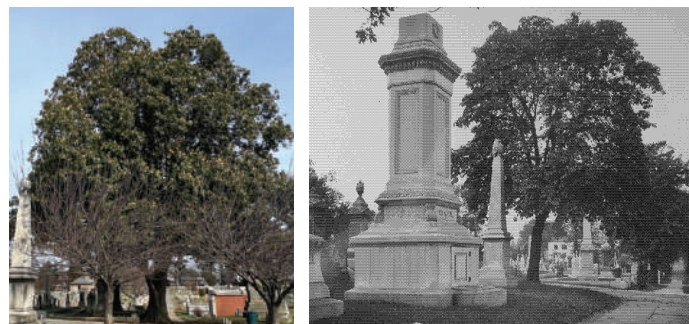
The silver linden is also known as European white linden or silver lime. It has serrated leaves with a rounded triangular shape, green and smooth on top, and white with hairs on the bottom. The silver linden blooms in mid-to-late summer with small, light yellow flowers.

4. Blue Atlas Cedar
Cedrus atlantica

An endangered species in its native range of the Rif and Atlas Mountains in Morocco, the blue Atlas cedar is a coniferous evergreen with a glaucous (bluish) tint to its needles.

5. Southern Magnolia ("Bracken's Brown Beauty")
Magnolia gradiflora

Also known as a bull bay, the southern magnolia has large,



leathery leaves and white flowers that can grow up to 11¼ inches across. It is an evergreen with leathery, light pink to green fruits. They are some of HCC's oldest documented trees, as they are fully grown in photographs from 1913.

6. Kwanzan Cherry "Kanzan"
Prunus serrulata

The result of the hybridization of Oshima cherry tree varieties during the Edo period in Japan, Kwanzan cherry blossoms are a deep pink color inherited from several mutant strains of wild Oshima cherries and have a double-flower structure, which gives the blossoms 20 to 50 petals. Their leaves are serrated and start a rust red before maturing to green. The choice to plant these cherry blossoms was intentionally made to reflect the iconic D.C. cherry blossoms around the Tidal Basin.



7. Common Crape Myrtle
Lagerstroemia indica

The crape myrtle is a deciduous flowering tree in the family Lythraceae, known as the "lilac of the south" despite its lack of fragrance. Its maximum height varies between cultivars, but all common crape myrtles share the crepe-paper quality of their flowers, their multitrunk formation, and thin bark.

8. Chinese Elm
Ulmus parvifolia

The Chinese elm is resistant to many common tree diseases and infestations. It has gray and red bark, which grows together in patchwork, lace-like patterns.

9. Alexandrina Saucer Magnolia
Magnolia x soulangeana

A deciduous small tree, the saucer magnolia is sometimes also called the tulip tree, a moniker it shares with the tulip poplar. The saucer magnolia is an early bloomer, with large flowers in shades of white, pink, and purple, appearing on bare branches in March or April before its leaves.

10. American Hornbeam
Carpinus caroliniana

A small tree native to eastern North America it is an important part of riverside ecosystems and plays a key role in preventing erosion. It has a unique trunk that is often crooked or fluted, earning it the name of the musclewood or muscle beech for its resemblance to flexed muscles.

11. Deodar Cedar
Cedrus deodara

A coniferous evergreen native to the Himalayan mountain range with sharp needles that range from bright green to glaucous blue.

12. Pin Oak
Quercus palustris

The pin oak is a deciduous tree in the red oak group of the Quercus genus. It is a riparian (situated by rivers) species that prefers wetlands.

13. Sugar Maple
Acer saccharum

A native to northeastern U.S. and Canada, this tree is known for its brilliant orange autumn foliage. The sweet sap can be used to make maple syrup.



14. American Holly
Ilex opaca

The American holly is a medium-sized evergreen tree with yellow-green, nearly matte to semi-glossy leaves that sharpen into multiple spikes at the edges.

15. Red Maple
Acer rubrum

The red maple is a widespread tree native to the eastern and central parts of North America known for its eponymous autumn foliage.

16. American Sycamore
Platanus occidentalis

The American sycamore is a massive, long-lived, deciduous tree. The trunk is mottled, often being green and gray. The oldest and largest specimens are thought to be 600+ years old.

17. Loblolly Pine
Pinus taeda

A large, coniferous tree in the pine family, the loblolly pine is the second most common tree in the United States and is the state tree of Arkansas. The loblolly pine is native to the southeastern United States.

18. Tulip Poplar
Liriodendron tulipifera

Despite its common name, the tulip poplar is neither related to tulips nor poplars. Instead, it is one of two surviving members of the genus *Liriodendron* and is more closely related to magnolias. As indicated by its nicknames as well as



its scientific name, the tulip poplar is best known for its tulip-like flowers. It is also known for the traits it shares with true poplars: the fluttering quality of its leaves and its capacity to grow.

19. Willow Oak
Quercus phellos

The willow oak is a member of the red oak species that has leaves that closely resemble willow leaves. Its main native range is in most of the southeastern United States. Willow oaks prefer lowland floodplains along rivers and streams, but can be found on drier upland locations.

20. American Witch-Hazel
Hamamelis virginiana

Witch-hazel is a native shrub or small tree that blooms with ribbon-like yellow flowers in late autumn and winter. Its bark and leaves can be distilled into an astringent to soothe minor skin irritations.

21. Eastern Redbud
Ceris canadensis

A member of the genus *Ceris* within the pea family, the eastern redbud is a small, deciduous tree with a large native range across most of the eastern United States.

22. American Linden
Tilia americana

A deciduous tree native to the U.S. and Canada, the American linden is the only native tree of the genus *Tilia* in the western hemisphere. The American linden grows in a domed shape with heart-shaped, light green leaves with minor toothing and small, fragrant, yellowish-white flowers. Eight linden trees form a living 'tree-henge' around the Circle of Life sundial, their shadows marking the instances of solstices and equinoxes.

23. Cherrybark Oak
Quercus pagoda

The cherrybark oak is a medium-sized tree in the red oak family. Named for its bark's resemblance to black cherry bark with its grey color and deep, scaled ridges, the cherrybark oak is characterized also by another of its namesakes—pagoda—as its leaves are tiered and pagoda-like in shape.

24. American Chestnut
Castanea dentata x mollissima

Due to the chestnut blight fungus, American chestnuts have a difficult time surviving to adulthood. Efforts now have to be made to restore the population by crossbreeding with fungus-resistant chestnuts. American

