Discover the Trees

74 Common Hackberry
Celtis occidentalis
The Hackberry is a tough native tree that thrives in Middle Tennessee conditions. As it matures, the dark bark becomes warty, smooth, or scaly, making each tree distinctive and unique.

76 Chinkapin Oak
Quercus muehlenbergii
This stately oak is an attractive tree with increasingly distinctive bark as it ages. Great for Middle Tennessee, this tree grows to 40 to 50 feet tall.

91 Paperbark Maple
Acer griseum
This small maple has unusual exfoliating bark that changes color. The leaves turn a stunning burnt orange in the fall. It is a small, slow-growing tree, only reaching 20 to 30 feet in height.

104 White Ash
Fraxinus americana
A common tree in the Middle Tennessee landscape, it reaches a height of 50 to 80 feet at maturity. The strong wood of this tree is used to make baseball bats.

106 Eastern Redcedar
Juniperus virginiana
This stately tree is found all over Tennessee in open and wooded habitats. It grows slowly, reaching heights of 50 to 80 feet. The fragrant wood is used in making cabinets and chests.

109 River Birch
Betula nigra
Exfoliating bark creates year-round interest in this fast-growing maple tree. It grows to 40 to 70 feet tall with a spread of 40 to 75 feet.

92 Eastern Redbud
Cercis canadensis
After bright rose-purple pea-like flowers bloom, lovely green heart-shaped foliage follows, creating an accent in the garden. It grows to 20 to 30 feet tall and wide.

110 Eastern White Pine
Pinus strobus
A beautiful native pine tree that grows 50 to 80 feet tall at maturity. Needles are soft to the touch and arranged in bundles of five.

121 Red Oak
Quercus rubra
This tough, native oak for Middle Tennessee is a fast grower. In the fall, leaves turn bright red. It grows to 40 to 75 feet tall.

116 Common Crapemyrtle
Lagerstroemia indica
This tree has year-round interest. In the winter, look for its stunning exfoliating bark. In the summer, bright blooms attract butterflies. In the fall, it has beautiful multi-colored foliage.

117 Flowering Dogwood
Cornus florida
This classic native tree is known for its impressive spring show. Its gorgeous white flowers are actually bracts that surround the tiny yellow flowers in the center.

What is an arboretum?
A living collection of trees and shrubs cultivated and labeled for scientific and educational purposes. Cheekwood's arboretum is located throughout the historic 55 acres.

What are the benefits of an arboretum?
- Demonstrates a tree's performance under cultivated conditions.
- Educates and provides a resource for the community, showcasing trees that thrive in Middle Tennessee.
- Conserves and tracks the Stinking Cedar, whose natural habitat is threatened.

Why are trees important?
- Provide shelter for wildlife.
- Produce oxygen for us. Trees act as giant filters and clean the air we breathe.
- Improve soil conditions and prevent erosion.
- Provide shade.
- Help to control and absorb noise pollution.
- Act as windbreaks.
- Add character to the landscape and create beautiful backdrops.
- Enhance the value of a property.

Cheekwood Arboretum Tour

9 Japanese Cedar
Cryptomeria japonica 'Hosokawa'
This evergreen conifer is a stately and graceful tree that is fast growing. At maturity, it reaches a height of 30 to 40 feet.

22 Lacebark Pine
Pinus bungeana
Anytime of the year, this tree is magnificent. Be sure to notice the exfoliating bark and the bristles of scale on the trunk. It is a slow grower that reaches a height of 30 to 50 feet.

23 Trident Maple
Acer buergerianum
Not your typical maple, this tree features exfoliating, richly textured bark. Dark green glossy leaves in the summer turn yellow, orange, or red in the fall.

32 Evergreen Dogwood
Cornus sibirica
This beautiful evergreen dogwood is native to China. Stunning white bracts, or modified leaves, appear in June and are followed by bright red fruits in the fall. It grows to 18-20 feet tall.

46 Common Pawpaw
Asimina triloba
Mellon flowers cover this native tree in spring, and striking green foliage brightens the woodland garden in the fall. Fruits with a papaya-like texture and apricots appear in late summer and are a favorite of wildlife.

47 Willow Oak
Quercus phellos
This narrow leaves of this oak are similar to a willow's leaves. This tough native tree grows to 40 to 60 feet tall.

51 Common Baldcypress
Taxodium distichum
A stunning tree with great texture, this cypress grows to 50 to 70 feet tall. Its needle-like foliage turns rusty orange in the fall, and the reddish brown bark creates interest in the winter.

52 Stinking Cedar
Torreya taxifolia
A nearly extinct plant in the wild, Cheekwood is proud to display this rare tree for the public. Its soft, evergreen pea-like foliage is present in the landscape all year.

56 Southern Magnolia
Magnolia grandiflora
Bright white blooms appear throughout May and June with striking evergreen foliage behind. The fruit borne of the southeastern United States grows to 50 to 80 feet tall.

57 Tulip Poplar
Liriodendron tulipifera
State tree of Tennessee, the tulip poplar is actually a member of the Magnolia family. It is a fast growing tree reaching a height of 70 to 90 feet. In the fall, this tree turns a bright yellow.

58 Sweetgum
Liquidambar styraciflua
This sweetgum's stunning fall color of red and purple with a spray of yellow will amaze you. But watch your bare feet. It produces hard and spiny fruits that drop in the fall and winter.