Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens

Final Trees List!
Quercus robur
Quercus robur – English oak

- Native to Europe fairly fast growing to 50’ to 60’ and 30’ wide
- Short (Stout) trunk and a wide, open canopy
- Leaves are dark green and have 3-5 deep lobes and are the classic recognizable oak leaf image. They hold until late Fall without much color change
- Acorns are varying in shape coming to an abrupt point and covered by a third by a velvety cap
Phytolacca dioica
Phytolacca dioica - Ombu

- From the pampa grasslands of South America, grows 40 to 60’ tall and 40 to 50’ wide
- Trunk consists of anomalous secondary thickening rather than true wood.
- Taco shaped leaves light green and 4-6” long
- Forms a bulbous base that can get quite large
- Male and female trees (Diecous). Fruit on female trees looks like a strand of tiny yellow pumpkins
- Historical importance to the gauchos said to often sleep under the Ombu using it for camp shelter.
Cedrus atlantica ‘Glaucala’
“Upswept” Branch tips
Cedrus atlantica ‘Glaucu’ – Blue atlas cedar

- Native to North Africa, slow growing to 60’ tall and 30’ Wide
- Shorter bluish needles are 1” long and in tufts like the true cedars. 
- Branches although pointing downward are swept slightly upward at the tips as opposed to the “nodding tips” of the Deodar cedar.
- Several varieties
Feather Palm vs. Fan Palm

Feather

Fan
Feather Palm Vs. Fan Palm
Clumping vs. Single trunked
Archontophoenix cunninghamiana
Sometimes in nurseries and when planting single trunked palms are grouped together as in this case of 3 single trunked King palms
Distinctive Characteristic
Archontophoenix cunninghamiana – King palm

- Single feather Palm
- Slow growing native to rain forests of Eastern Australia to 50’ ft. or more and 10 to 15’ wide
- Stiff, flat fronds attach to trunk narrow slender smooth trunk with a distinctive clasping green petiole
- Chandelier like flower bloom forms at the base of the frond
Syagrus romanzioffianum
Distinctive Plume
Syagrus romanzzoffianum – Queen palm

- Single “feather palm”
- Brazilian native to 50’ tall and 20 to 25’ wide
- Fastest growing and most rugged of the commonly used palms
- Arching glossy bright green plume-like fronds give this palm an elegant look.
Brahea armata
What is the most distinctive characteristic on this one?
Brahea armata – Mexican blue palm

- Single fan palm
- From Mexico, grows slowly 20-40’ tall spreading 12 to 25’
- Armata species refers to hook like spines along the frond petiole
- Silvery blue almost white leaves.
- Conspicuous long sprays of white flowers
- Can handle heat and wind
Brahea edulis
Distinctive Trunk Texture
**Brahea edulis** – Guadalupe palm

- Single fan palm
- From Guadalupe Island off the coast of Baja
- Slow growing to 30’ Tall and 15’ Wide
- Leaves disconnect cleanly revealing a stout elephant hide like-trunk
- Takes both desert and costal conditions.
Butia capitata
Distinctive Shape
Butea capitata – Pindo palm

- Single feather palm
- South American native grows 10 to 20’ tall with a 10 to 15
- Green of blue-green leaves curve around towards the trunk and have a V-shaped orientation of the frond to central petiole
- Spikes of yellow flowers produce an edible fruit said to taste like apricot-banana - pineapple blend
Caryota urens
Caryota urens – Fishtail wine palm

- Single feather palm
- Southeast Asian native grows fast 40’ to 80’ feet Tall and 15’ wide
- Leaves are finely divided into leaflets that look like the fins of a fish
- Trunk handsome and slender with slight hairiness in the younger parts.
- Monocarpic (Dies after blooming)
Chamerops humilis
**Chamerops humilis** – Mediterranean fan palm

- Clumping fan palm
- Europe's only native palm trunks can grow to 20’ and wide (with multiple trunks)
- Green to bluish green fans form on spiny leaf stalks
- Tolerates poor soils and strong winds
- Good in large containers or raised planters
- Excellent specimen or impenetrable hedge
Phoenix canariensis
East 19th Street and Tustin Ave. in Costa Mesa
**Phoenix canariensis** – Canary Island palm

- Single feather palm
- From the Canary islands, a big heavy-trunked palm that grows slowly to 60’ Tall and up to 50’ wide
- Not for small landscapes but dramatic when used properly for scale
- Fronds have nasty spines along the petioles (like all in the Phoenix genus)
- Females make clusters of bright orange date-like fruits that can seed in lawns
Phoenix roebelini
**Phoenix roebelinii** – Pigmy date palm

- Single feather palm
- From Laos the smallest of the date palms grows 6-10’ Tall and 6-8’ wide
- Often planted in forced groupings of 3 because of gangly look of mature single trunk
- Bright green fine textured curving leaves
- Great in a pot or in small groves
- Likes bright indirect light
Phoenix reclinata
**Phoenix reclinata** – Senegal date palm

- Clumping feather palm
- African native grows 20 to 30’ tall and 20 to 40’ Wide (clump)
- Species name refers to the upward sweeping (reclining) nature of the trunks
- Not for small areas. Without being cleaned (removing offshoots), it can look like a big spiny hedge
- Great seaside plant
Rhapis excelsa
**Rhapis excelsa** – Lady palm

- Clumping fan palm. (Cane-like stalks)
- This slow growing Chinese native grows 5-12’ tall and wide
- Cane-like stalks are covered with dark brown hairs.
- One if the finest of houseplants tolerating low light and moderate neglect although it responds to raised light levels as well as fertilization and proper watering
- Identified by 5-9 blunt tipped (as if cut with pinking shears) fingers on each frond
Rhapis humilis
**Rhapis humilis** – Rattan palm

- Clumping fan palm (cane-like stalks)
- China native very slow growing to 18’ tall and 3’ Wide
- Many more, thinner fingers on each fan make for an elegant look and a great lighting subject
- Harder to find in the industry
Trachycarpus fortunei
Distinctive Hairy Trunk
Trachycarpus fortunei – Windmill palm

- Single fan palm
- From China a very hardy palm grows fast to 30’ Tall and 10’ Wide.
- Trunk is generally thicker at the top than the bottom and is covered with thick blackish hair
- Thin toothed stalks with 3’ fans at the ends move in the breeze.
- Yellow flower clusters followed by orange to brown fruits
Bismarckia nobilis
**Bismarkia nobilis - NCN**

- Single fan palm
- From Madagascar this spectacular palm gets 30 to 40’ Tall and 25’ wide
- Greyish white leaves are unique and provide interest in the landscape
- Cinnamon fuzzy dots along the petiole
- Be sure to give it room to grow
- Interesting tiny yellow flowers on maroon flower spikes like sea coral
Beaucarnea recurvata
Beaucarnea recurvata – Bottle palm

- Not a palm
- From Mexico this tree gets 12 to 15’ Tall possible to 30’ over time
- One or more trunks arise from its greatly swollen base (caudex)
- Sharp edged strap-like leaves can curve back towards the stem like a girl's ponytail.
- Can handle many different growing conditions as well as low light conditions
- Can grow in a pot for years
Dracaena draco
**Draceana draco** – Dragon tree

- A monocot with a tree like form
- This Canary Island and western morocco native grows to 30’ Tall and as Wide. Old ones are much larger
- Strap-like blue greyish leaves to 18” long and 2”-3” Wide and have a red resin like sap where leaves join the stem
- Fragrant flowers followed by reddish round fruits cause stem to branch after flowering. Each stem grows for about 15 years before flowering again
- Resin has had many historical medicinal uses over the years and was thought to be used to enhance violin varnishes.
Cycas revoluta
At the Huntington
George Washington’s Greenhouse 1780 With Sago palms pulled outdoors for the Summer. Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon Sago Palms pulled out for Summer
Cycus revoluta – Sago palm

- Cone bearing
- From Japan this very slow growing cycad gets 10’ tall and looks more like a palm
- Leaves are 2-3’ long and finely divided into many narrow leathery segments
- Great as a specimen or used in an Asian themed garden
- Can “pup” from the base or along the trunk when older
- Gets scale on underside of leaves
- Expensive to buy due to its very slow growth rate
Phyllostachys bambusoides
**Phyllostachys bambusoides** – Giant timber bamboo

- Once the most common of the large hardy timber bamboos. Many perished during a big blooming period in the 1970’s. It grows 15 to 35’ Tall and clumps up to 50’ wide
- Most often in Southern California we are planting *Bambusa oldhamii* - Giant clumping timber bamboo
- Most Bamboos are monocarpic meaning that they die when they bloom. Ours in the Horticulture department is over 40 years old.
Castanospermum australe
**Castanospermum australe** – Moreton Bay chestnut

- From Australia this tree can get to 130’ tall and 100’ Wide but most commonly grows 30 to 60’ Tall and wide
- Compound leaves are shiny and have 19 5” leaflets with wavy margins
- Bright orange tropical flower clusters yield 6” long seed pods holding between hold 1-6 large chestnut-like seeds.
- Historically when poisonous seeds were properly prepared by roasting and leaching provided a regular food source to aboriginal tribes for over 2,500 years