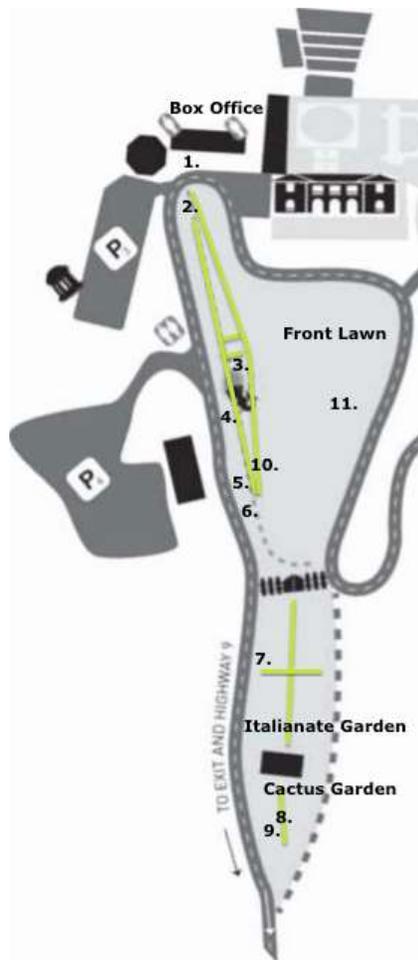


A TOUR OF THE GARDEN

Montalvo Arts Center is dedicated to artistic and natural diversity, bringing the community together in its inclusive environment. Visitors are encouraged to explore the arboretum's collection of trees and shrubs from all over the world.



From the Box Office at the southern end of the Front Lawn, the visitor's walking tour proceeds along the Eastern Garden Trail, through the Italianate Garden and the Cactus Garden. Descriptions of prominent trees along the Western Garden Trail and on the Front Lawn complete the tour.

IN FRONT OF THE BOX OFFICE



Tiger Eye Flowering Maple
(*Abutilon* 'Tiger Eye')

As an exotic tropical relative of the hibiscus family, the abutilon (pronounced "ah-'BEAUTY-lawn") carries the common name "flowering maple," referring to the maple tree shaped leaves. Visitors to the Montalvo Box Office often notice the **Tiger Eye Flowering Maple** ⁽¹⁾ (*Abutilon* 'Tiger Eye'), and admire the hanging yellow or orange flowers with a red-veined pattern.

Since the mildly toxic sap may cause skin irritation, experienced gardeners advise wearing long sleeves and gloves when handling.



Blue Flame Agave
(*Agave* 'Blue Flame')

With its graceful leaves curving inward, the **Blue Flame Agave** ⁽²⁾ (*Agave* 'Blue Flame') resembles a blue gas flame. This hybrid displays desirable qualities from its parent succulents. The parent plant Coastal Agave (*Agave shawii*) bestows its cold-temperature hardiness and serrated leaf edges. The Fox Tail Agave (*Agave attenuata*) confers its beautiful blue-green color and graceful form. (See number 9 in the Cactus Garden section.)

THE EASTERN GARDEN TRAIL

Named after the Katsura Imperial Villa in Kyoto, the graceful, ornamental **Weeping Katsura**'s ⁽³⁾ (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum* 'Pendula') branches form an umbrella-shaped crown. The blue-green heart-shaped leaves turn yellow in the autumn.

The horizontal branches of the graceful **Japanese Maple** ⁽⁴⁾ (*Acer palmatum*) form a dome shape. Containing natural genetic variety, over 1,000 cultivars have been developed for desired characteristics. The delicate, lacy leaves may contain 5, 7 or 9 pointed lobes. During the seasons,

the leaves change color, ranging from red and purple to yellow and bronze. Asian societies revere this elegant deciduous tree as a symbol of balance, harmony, peace and serenity.



Wollemi Pine
(*Wollemia nobilis*)

Beyond the Mermaid Pond, a rare tree survives in seclusion. Discovered in 1994 in Australia, the **Wollemi Pine** ⁽⁵⁾ (*Wollemia nobilis*) contains a distinctive bark texture, resembling dark-brown bubbles. Fewer than 100 of these endangered trees exist in the world. A few trees have been distributed to botanical gardens for research and preservation.



Camperdown Elm
(*Ulmus glabra* 'Camperdownii')

The **Camperdown Elm** ⁽⁶⁾ (*Ulmus glabra* 'Camperdownii'), with its twisted branches and dense weeping foliage which form an umbrella shape, was discovered in 1835 in Dundee, Scotland. The forester for the Earl of Camperdown transplanted the tree to the estate garden, and later grafted branches onto other elm trees.

Since the 4th Earl of Camperdown had no children to inherit the title, only the trees carry the name. While generations admire its cascading elegant form, children enjoy playtime under the natural fortress formed by the canopy of branches.

THE ITALIANATE GARDEN



Matilija Poppy
(*Romneya coulteri*)

The **Matilija Poppy** ⁽⁷⁾ [ma-‘TEE-lee-ha] is named after the Chumash chief Matilija, who lived in Ventura County, California. The botanical name (*Romneya coulteri*) honors the Irish astronomer Thomas Romney Robinson. The plants are native to California and northern Mexico. The plant may grow to eight feet tall. This plant has the largest flower of any member of the poppy family—up to 5.1 inches across with bright yellow centers. The Matilija Poppy can be used on hillsides as soil binders. They are invasive, spreading underground. They can be found in burned areas where they are given the name “fried egg flower.” These plants are difficult to establish, but once they take root are hard to remove. The plants are very poisonous.

THE CACTUS GARDEN



Large Purple Aeonium
(*Aeonium arboreum* ‘Zwartkop’)

The leaves of the **Large Purple Aeonium** ⁽⁸⁾ [ee-‘OH-nee-um] (*Aeonium arboreum* ‘Zwartkop’) range in color from dark purple to almost black. The usual blooming season is during the cooler temperatures of late winter and early spring.

On the other side of the Cactus Garden, botanical family relative **Purple Aeonium** (*Aeonium arboreum* ‘Atropurpureum’) is an evergreen succulent that resembles a rose. With partial shade, the leaves turn a reddish purple. It blooms during late winter and early spring, producing star-shaped flowers. Growing as high as 3.5 feet tall, it is very hardy, preferring a sandy, medium moisture soil that has good drainage and full sun. This succulent is also drought-resistant and pest- and disease-free.



Fox Tail Agave
(*Agave attenuata*)

The evergreen succulent perennial **Fox Tail Agave** ⁽⁹⁾ (*Agave attenuata*) presents an attractive rosette of pale grayish-green leaves that have a silvery cast. They can grow up to four feet in width. Reproduction takes place in late summer and early autumn when the plant produces small plantlets alongside a showy flower stalk. These plantlets fall to the ground and (hopefully) take root close by.

Plants that have a grayish color in the daytime (color is a tactic which the plant uses to maintain a cooler temperature) display a different face when the sun sets and the moon rises. The rosettes sparkle in the moonlight, particularly if they receive moisture from the evening dew!

The thick stem can reach up to four feet tall. Native to Mexico, this drought-tolerant succulent grows in a wide range of climate conditions, although it could suffer damage in freezing temperatures. The Latin word *attenuata* refers to the tapered shape of the leaves, which also lack teeth or spines along the outer edges.

In a scientific name,

- the first word is the genus [‘JEAN-us] (plural: genera [‘JEN-er-uh], adjective: general). The genus name is written in italics and is capitalized.
- The second word is the species (plural: species, adjective: specific). The species name is written in italics, and in lowercase.
- A third word indicates a subspecies or cultivar. The subspecies name is not in italics, is capitalized, and written within single quotes.

THE WESTERN GARDEN TRAIL



Evergreen Dogwood
(*Cornus capitata* ‘Mountain Moon’)

The **Evergreen Dogwood** ⁽¹⁰⁾ (*Cornus capitata* ‘Mountain Moon’) is a beautiful tall tree, with a semi-round or pyramid shape, grown for its fragrant flowers and fruit. In late spring, the entire tree is covered in creamy-white flowers that transform into strawberry-like fruits that attract songbirds.

During the autumn, the red berries appear. The fruit is edible but sometimes bitter (appetizing to birds, but not so much for some people). The tree is native to Southeast Asia, but adapts well to the Bay Area climate, able to tolerate temperatures as low as 15°F.

Evergreen Dogwood is a popular and appealing choice for gardens for its easy care and lovely presentation.

THE FRONT LAWN

Perhaps the world's most ancient tree at over 200 million years old, the **Maidenhair Tree** ⁽¹¹⁾ (*Ginkgo biloba*) is used for tea and herbal remedies. The unconventional spelling, ending in *-kgo*, derives from a translation of the Japanese word *ginkyō*, “silver apricot.”

RECOMMENDED WEB SITES

<https://www.calflora.org/mindex.html>
<https://www.calscape.org/>

Montalvo Service Group’s Provisionals (new members) produced this garden pamphlet. Although the quarantine introduced hurdles and obstacles, community spirit inspired us to maintain familial and social connections, and to adapt. The Montalvo gardens and trails remained open, offering haven and solace. As we learned more about the various plants during our collaboration, we expanded our awareness and appreciation of nature.