



Key

- Great for kids!
- Pinetum Sculpture Trail  
Find the giant botanical cone sculptures amongst the trees.
- Information & tickets
- Accessible Toilets
- Refreshments
- First aid
- Shop
- Viewpoint
- Toilets
- Parking
- Picnic Area
- Accessible parking

- Accessible trails**
- Flat with no gradient
  - A slight gradient

- Terrain not suitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs**
- Mixed surface paths
  - Grass path
  - Gravel paths
  - Steps





Welcome to Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, one of the largest collections of hardy trees and shrubs in the world. Also listed as having the biggest collection of Champion Trees in the whole of Britain and Ireland - with 611 Champions! You can use the map overleaf to help guide yourself around the Gardens. The ten plants highlighted here are just a taster of what can be seen on your walk. We hope you enjoy your visit. 🏆 = RHS Award of Garden Merit.

**1. *Betula albosinensis* 'Bowling Green'** 🏆  
(BET-yoo-luh al-bo-sy-NEN-sis)

A stunning 'Sliver Birch' native to China and one of many trees in the Gardens, that has the additional feature of attractive bark. The exfoliating bark is the tree's way of rejuvenation of the outer surface after natural, environmental damage, ie weather etc. or to prevent pests, insects hibernating in the layers. Whatever the reason, it is a beautiful feature. This tree was discovered by Ernest Wilson, one of the greatest plant hunters, who introduced hundreds of plants from China.

**2. *Polystichum aculeatum* 'Proliferum'** (pol-IS-tick-um a-kew-lee-AH-tum)

This glorious, evergreen, fern grows naturally over much of Europe, North Africa and central Asia, as far as China. Easy to grow and the perfect plant for a shady spot. Although ferns reproduce using spores, this species also produces ready-to-go baby plants (bulbils) in the leaf axis.

**3. *Ruscus aculeatus*** (RUS-kus a-kew-lee-AH-tus)

'Butcher's Broom', as it is known. Is native to much of southern Europe and Northern Africa. This spiky plant is a little vicious to handle but is a very useful and attractive addition to the garden. The persistent fruits are probably the most significant feature and are great for Christmas/ winter decoration. The plant has male and female flowers on separate plants, so you need both to see the berries. The common name comes from the use of the stems for cleaning butcher's chopping blocks after use!

**4. *Borinda papyrifera*** (bor-IN-da pap-ih-RIFF-er-uh)

This bamboo native to China, is known for its blue and purple stems in winter. Unfortunately, bamboos are quite a challenge for the average gardener as they need containment in the majority of cases, lest you upset your neighbours! Here in the Gardens we plant all our bamboos within barriers. 1 metre width think plastic, which contains the roots. Of course, pot cultivation is an option, but you need a big pot for most species. Bamboos are still a traditional building material in rural China.

**5. *Prunus serrula*** (PROO-nus ser-roo-LAH)

Although this Himalayan Cherry has rather small flowers, the stunning bark is certainly one of the most radiant in the genus. Cherries can make great small trees for compact gardens and can be containerized and pruned to be kept small.

**6. *Picea orientalis* 'Skylands'** 🏆 (PY-see-uh or-ee-en-TAH-liss)

This is a beautiful, evergreen conifer for winter interest. This 'Spruce' variety has an upper layer of golden-yellow on all the needles, making it stand out particularly on a dull winter's day. Conifers come in all shapes and sizes and dwarf conifers have in recent years come back into fashion. Conifers are an evergreen component to keep the garden looking lively all year round.

**7. *Eriobotrya Japonica*** (er-ee-oh-BOT-ree-uh juh-PON-ih-kuh)

This is this 'tropical' fruiting plant, the Loquat!! Sadly, the delicious fruits are never produced outside here in the UK, unless under glass, but the plant can still be enjoyed for its attractive leaves and late autumn flowers.

**8. *Tilia cordata* 'Winter Orange'** 🏆 (TIL-ee-uh kor-DAH-tuh)

This variety of the small leaf Lime has the most stunning, orange stems in winter and is perfect for a colourful pleach, trained wall shrub, short pollard or just coppiced to enjoy the bright colour in winter. There are several varieties of Lime with colourful stems.



**9. *Stewartia monadelph***  
(stew-ART-ee-uh mon-ah-DEL-fuh)

This beautiful tree native to Japan, not only has fabulous, bark for winter interest, but also produces large, white, camellia-like flowers in late spring/ summer. Like its relative the Camellia, it needs acidic soil to thrive. Named for John Stuart, an 18<sup>th</sup> century notable figure, but due to a transcription error, Linnaeus misspelled the name.

**10. *Viscum album*** (VIS-kum AL-bum) This is definitely a plant of interest for this time of year! A plant surrounded by myth and magic and especially useful for obtaining a kiss, when stood underneath!! The Mistletoe is a hemi-parasite! This is a plant that attaches to a host plant and extracts nutrients, yet also photosynthesizes, so doesn't totally rely on the tree. Mistletoe is specific and will only grow on certain trees. These include Apples, pears, poplar, willows and maples.

**Membership starts from £38. Join today and claim back today's admission fee.**

Help support the Sir Harold Hillier Garden charity and become a member visit <https://shop.hants.gov.uk/>

For the latest updates find us @HillierGardens

**Don't miss!**

**New Year's Day Guided Walk** - highlighting the Winter Garden with our gardening expert. **Booking is essential**

**Christmas opening**

9.30am – 4.30pm through to 31 December

*Last admission 1 hour before closing*

• Christmas Eve: 9.30am – 4pm

• Christmas Day & Boxing Day: Closed

Wishing you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!