



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. *Cornus alba* 'Sibirica' 🏆 (KOR-nus) This is perhaps the best of the coloured stemmed 'Dogwoods'. A good, strong red colour in winter, with a flush of pink at the base in late summer/autumn the white flowers are followed by white berries. Like most of the 'Dogwoods' it is easy to grow and maintain, thriving in most soil types. Annual coppicing in spring will yield colourful stems every winter. Left unpruned this plant becomes dull and woody.

2. *Sarcococca orientalis* (sar-koh-KOH-kuha- or-ee-en-TAY-liss) The first of the 'Christmas Box' to flower and bang on queue! These are plants closely related to true Box (*Buxus*), but as yet, not effected by the caterpillar or Blight. Although they don't really make a hedge very well, they are evergreen and bushy. Unlike true Box, they have fragrant flowers, one of the strongest scents of winter.

3. *Cornus sanguinea* 'Anny's Winter Orange' (KOR-nus san-GWIN-nee-ah)

The Dogwoods are a super group of plants for winter interest. The colourful stems make a real impact, especially when combined with evergreen shrubs and grasses. This variety has the most spectacular fiery colours that just get stronger and more intense as the season progresses. In my opinion, the best of the group for colour!!

4. *Pinus contorta* 'Chief Joseph' 🏆 (PY-nus kon-TOR-tuh)

This is a super, compact pine tree for the garden and gives outstanding colour in winter. There are quite a few conifers that can change colour with the seasons, but none does it quite as,

dramatically as this plant. This is what is described as a compact conifer, not a dwarf. This means that it is not a tree for a very small garden, but still doesn't get much bigger than 3 metres (10ft.) after 10 years. The stunning colour in winter fades to lime green during late spring to autumn but is still an attractive tree.

5. *Acer negundo* 'Winter Lightning' (AY-ser neg-UN-doh)

This is a beautiful and unusual form of a species of maple native to North America. Usually, this tree is grown for its attractive pinnate (feather-like) leaves and tassel-like, purple-pink flowers in spring. However, this form is grown mostly for its stunning, bright yellow stems. In spring it can be treated very much like a Dogwood and coppiced back. Pollarding is also an option (pruning stems back to a frame-work with several feet of trunk). Left to grow to its ultimate size, this is a medium sized tree for a large garden.

6. *Lonicera x purpusii* 'Spring Romance' (luh-NIS-er-a pur-PUSS-ee-eye)

This is one of the shrub 'Honeysuckles', a small, messy shrub with a semi-evergreen habit. Flowering in winter with small white flowers, that are highly fragrant, sometimes with a hint of pink. I like to cut sprigs to bring inside over the winter to add a bit of natural fragrance to the house. As a garden shrub it is best grown as a boundary hedge or mixed with other shrubs, as it can look a little 'untidy' at times. Summer Romance is one of several selections of this hybrid cross between two Chinese species, *L. fragrantissima* (now extinct in the wild) and *L. standishii*.

7. *Rubus biflorus* (ROO-bus by-FLOR-us)

Colourful stems are the theme of the Winter Garden and mostly that means bright reds, yellows and oranges. However, the bright white stems of the 'Ghost Bramble' can be equally striking for a winter display. This is a species of Blackberry native to the mountains of the Himalayas. Allowed to grow naturally this plant would produce white flowers and eventually, orange, edible fruits. However, like the Dogwoods, it is traditionally coppiced to the ground in spring.

8. *Cornus sanguinea* 'Cato' 🏆 (KOR-nus san-GWIN-nee-ah)

This is another stunning form of the coloured stemmed Dogwood. With some of these varieties it is quite hard to tell the difference as colours are similar, but to me this relatively new variety, is quite outstanding. The stems

are more on the yellow spectrum than orange or red like the other forms. Cato is one of several plants in the Gardens that is preserved by a 'Plant Guardian'. This is a scheme to protect rare or endangered cultivars in private gardens run by Plant Heritage www.plantheritage.org.uk

9. *Betula davurica* (BET-yoo-luh duh-voor-EE-kah)

This beautiful tree is native to Japan, Korea, Eastern Russia and other parts of eastern Asia. Mainly cultivated in western gardens for its fabulous bark for winter interest. Many Silver Birch have attractive bark, many exfoliating like this one. A medium sized tree possibly kept more compact with seasonal pollarding.

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
- January open daily: 10am - 5pm

Wishing you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!