

Garden Highlights Trail

A trail for language schools to discover the highlights of the Garden

Getting started

Welcome to the Garden Highlights Trail, designed to showcase some of the highlights of the Garden. There are over 8,000 species in the living plant collection, an invaluable research resource for all. You will notice that every plant here is labelled with its Latin name and common name. Having the proper Latin name helps to track down information on the plant and how and where it grows - especially useful for internet searches.

This self-guided walk will take you through key areas of the Garden, each featuring unique and interesting plants. Use your senses to appreciate the living environment of plants and animals in the Garden, and begin to appreciate the diversity of living things, from the smallest moss to the largest tree.

We hope you enjoy your time in the Garden. While you are discovering this beautiful place, please remember:

- stay on the paths and lawns. The Rock Garden (F9), stepping stones (D9) and the British wild plants mound (N7) are out of bounds for school groups
- split into groups of 10 or fewer
- all pupils under 17 must be accompanied by an adult at all times
- respect the trees and, for your safety, do not climb them

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- 1. Lime tree:** This is officially the first tree planted in the Garden when it opened on this site in 1846. When, many years later, it was decided to produce a logo to represent the Garden, a pen and ink drawing of a lime leaf was chosen.
- 2. Giant redwood tree:** This tree on the Main Walk is the tallest tree in the Garden at 31m. Giant redwoods are native to northern California. They form the most massive trees in the world. The world's largest is known as General Sherman and is 83m tall and 13m in diameter.
- 3. Beech tree with grafted trunk:** Notice the distinct line around the trunk of this tree at about 1.5m above the ground. This is the scar from a young shoot being grafted onto a different root stock. This tree has arisen from a mutation that causes the leaves to have a serrated edge, unlike the conventional beech with smooth or entire leaves. The tree is very unusual and rare. A vegetative process had to be used to reproduce this tree. Cuttings were taken from the original mutated variety and grafted onto a normal root stock when the stems were very young and immature.
- 4. Grass maze:** Turf mazes were a common feature of villages in Mediaeval England. This grass maze is modelled on the double spiral – follow one path into the centre and another path out. Its walls are composed of the New Zealand grass *Anemanthele lessoniana*, which is known as 'bunch grass'.

- 5. Bricked-up pear tree:** People used to think they could help damaged trees to heal if they filled the wound to keep out infection. We now know that trees have their own very effective first aid treatments. This tree was bricked up during the 1960s.
- 6. Persian ironwood tree:** This tree is very beautiful. It has amazing bark that looks like 'army' camouflage. If you look closely at the branches, you will see they interweave and join as they grow. It has very tiny red flowers in spring.
- 7. The bee borders:** Bees visit flowers for food – nectar provides sugars for energy and pollen provides proteins essential for growing. All the plants in these beds have been chosen because they offer food for bees. Watch the bees visiting the flowers.



Map for Garden Highlights Trail

