



Great white cherry

Prunus 'Tai-haku'

📍 Japan

LEAST CONCERN

VULNERABLE

ENDANGERED

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

The Tai-haku cherry was part of an un-labelled collection sent from Japan to a garden in Sussex in the early 1900s. When in 1923 Collingwood "Cherry" Ingram saw the tree in flower, he was taken by the immense pure white flowers and immediately took cuttings to propagate without knowing what it was. Later, when he was visiting Japan to address the Cherry Society, he was shown an illustration of a cherry thought to be long extinct and immediately recognised it as the cherry he had seen in Sussex. It was re-introduced to Japan in 1932 and, due to its spectacular display of flowers is now one of the most commonly planted flowering cherries worldwide.



Did you know...

Every single *Prunus* 'Tai-haku' including this specimen can be traced back to that one single tree discovered in Sussex.

Scan here for the Harris Garden website





Turkey oak

Quercus cerris

📍 South-eastern Europe and Asia

LEAST CONCERN

VULNERABLE

ENDANGERED

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

"I love the Harris Garden. As a volunteer I am there every Thursday and feel better just walking in. The huge Turkey oak is a particular highlight because it has been there so long. The visitors particularly the children love it too. In the summer, families picnic in its shade and I hope it will be there for many years to come."

Eunice Brooks, Horticultural Volunteer



Did you know

The surviving Turkey oaks in the Harris Garden used to form an avenue and are thought to have been planted between 1830 and 1860. One tree has been reduced to its main trunk as standing deadwood and left to decay gradually to provide a home for bats, beetles, woodpeckers, and other wildlife.

Scan here for the Harris Garden website





Emmenopterys

Emmenopterys henryi

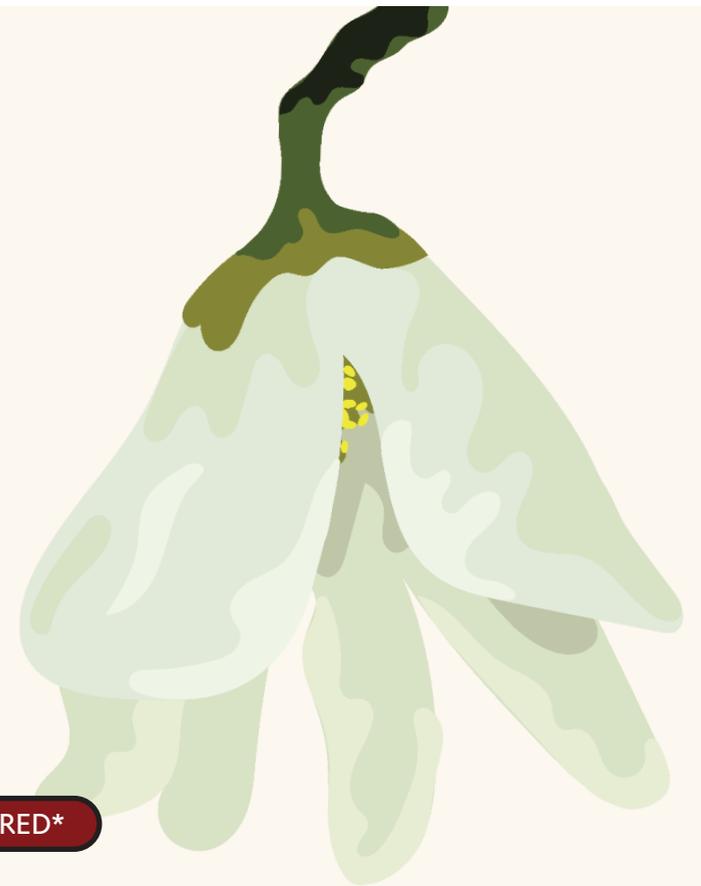
📍 Central and Southern China and Vietnam

LEAST CONCERN

VULNERABLE

ENDANGERED

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED*



First introduced to Europe in 1907, *Emmenopterys henryi* is grown worldwide because of its spectacular flower display in summer. However, the trees may not flower until they are over 30 years old, and it wasn't until 1987 that a specimen flowered in the UK. Flowering appears to be triggered by a long hot summer, but even with the recent hot summers such as that of 2022 we are still waiting for this tree to flower for the first time.

Did you know...



Emmenopterys henryi is named after the Irish botanist Augustine Henry. Species names derived from a man's name often end in -i or -ii (*Berberis darwinii* is a plant discovered by Charles Darwin) those named for a woman often end in -ae (*Kniphofia northiae* is a plant named after celebrated Victorian biologist and botanical artist Marianne North).



Scan here for the Harris Garden website



* Wang, J.Q. et al. (2016) 'Distribution and investigation of endangered species *Emmenopterys henryi* in Jiangsu Province', *Journal of Jiangsu Forestry Science & Technology* 43(1), pp25-28.



Cypress oak

Quercus robur forma 'Fastigiata'

📍 Europe

LEAST CONCERN

VULNERABLE

ENDANGERED

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

"My favourite tree within the Harris Garden is the Cypress oak *Quercus robur* forma 'Fastigiata'. First discovered in a German forest in 1783 grafted trees began to be distributed across Europe and it is thought the Marquis of Blandford planted one within the Wilderness in 1800. The Cypress Oak will come partially true from seed, and it is thought the Harris Garden specimen is a seedling raised around 1867 from this original tree still present within the Wilderness. Fastigate trees are commonly used in modern landscaping, but this specimen illustrates why named clones are better in those situations. The appeal of this trees is its loose twisting branches and broad but shapely form; however I do wonder if this tree is actually the cultivar 'Tortuosa' or at least shares some ancestry with it."

Rupert Taylor, Head of Grounds Maintenance



Did you know...

At around 28m tall this specimen is recorded as the tallest Fastigate Oak in Berkshire

Scan here for the Harris Garden website





Giant redwood

Sequoiadendron giganteum

📍 Pacific coast of the USA

LEAST CONCERN

VULNERABLE

ENDANGERED

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

Giant redwoods are evergreen conifers that grow in parts of California that have a high risk of forest fires. Thick, spongy bark and water-based sap helps protect their trunks from fire damage, and mature trees shed lower branches to prevent fire from spreading through their canopy. Giant redwoods rely on fire to reproduce with the heat from the fire causing the cones to open allowing seeds to disperse in the wind. Fires also help by clearing the forest floor of competing plants, and the ashes left behind provide a fertiliser to help the seedlings grow.



Did you know...

A giant redwood called 'General Sherman' in the Sequoia National Park is currently the largest living tree on earth. It is estimated to weigh 6,000 tonnes and be at least 2,200 years old. Giant redwoods were first introduced to the UK in 1853 and this tree is thought to have been planted in around 1870.

Scan here for the
Harris Garden website



Chilean plum yew

Prumnopitys andina

📍 Chile

LEAST CONCERN

VULNERABLE

ENDANGERED

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

"My favourite specimen in the garden is *Prumnopitys andina*, the Chilean plum yew. It sits to the right of the gate to the walled garden and most casual visitors mistake it for another yew tree. This tree dates back to the pre-University age of Whiteknights and is a living link to the history of campus. Our tree at Reading is listed in an article on dendrology.org and is one of the larger specimens alive in the UK. It's a beautiful, healthy specimen from a plant family (Podocarpaceae) little grown in the UK and sits there, unassuming and easily overlooked, as a useful teaching aid, a decorative tree and a sign of the great botanical and horticultural history of our campus."

Alistair Culham,

Associate Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

🔍 Did you know...

The sweet tasting fleshy cones are used by people in the plum yew's native Chile for making marmalade.

VULNERABLE
Scan to visit dendrology.org article



Scan here for the Harris Garden website





Wollemi pine

Wollemia nobilis

📍 Wollemi National Park, Australia

LEAST CONCERN

VULNERABLE

ENDANGERED

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

"This Wollemi pine was planted in 2008 and it was decided not to label it as at that time they were quite rare and we didn't want to have it stolen! Now that it has reached its present height I think it would be safe to label it. It has put on good growth every year and I look forward to seeing it reach 200 feet."

Rosemary Hewitt, Horticultural volunteer



Did you know...

The Wollemi pine dates back to the Cretaceous period and would have co-existed alongside Velociraptors in what we now call Australia. This 'living fossil' was thought to have been extinct for two million years until a small population of less than 100 trees was discovered in a remote gorge in the Blue Mountains. Their location remains a closely guarded secret.

Scan here for the
Harris Garden website



The Harris Garden  University of Reading



Dawn redwood

Metasequoia glyptostroboides

📍 Western China

LEAST CONCERN

VULNERABLE

ENDANGERED

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

Like the Wollemi pine, the dawn redwood was thought for a long time to be extinct, with fossil records the only evidence of this tree existing. Live specimens were first discovered in 1941 growing in shady ravines and on damp mountain slopes in the Chinese province of Szechwan. In 1948 seeds were collected and sent to botanical gardens and arboreta throughout the world, and it is now a common sight in parks and large gardens in the UK. Dawn redwoods are moisture loving trees (there is one growing in Whiteknights Lake) and are known in China as Shuīshān or “water firs”.



Did you know...

Soon after its discovery, much of the largest population of 6,000 trees was chopped down for timber, leaving a narrow genetic base for cultivation.

Scan here for the
Harris Garden website





Coast redwood

Sequoia sempervirens

📍 Pacific coast of the USA

LEAST CONCERN

VULNERABLE

ENDANGERED

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

Coast redwoods are the tallest trees on Earth. In their native California the humid summer fogs combined with high winter rainfall allow redwoods to grow to immense heights. Like giant redwoods, coast redwoods have thick, spongy bark that helps protect them from forest fires; but unlike most conifers, coast redwoods can sprout new growth from their stumps if the tree is severely damaged. Coast redwood timber is so durable that at one time, California law demanded that all houses should be constructed on foundations made of redwood set in concrete.



Did you know...

At 115 metres tall, a coast redwood called 'Hyperion' is the tallest living thing on earth.

Scan here for the
Harris Garden website





Handkerchief tree

Davidia involucrata

📍 Temperate forests in China

LEAST CONCERN

VULNERABLE

ENDANGERED

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

The main attraction of this tree is the spring flowering display where pairs of pure white modified leaves called bracts hang down around the globe like flowers. These bracts can be up to 20cm long and flutter in the lightest of breezes hence the common names of handkerchief and dove tree. Towards the end of his life, famed plant hunter Ernest Wilson remarked "Now with a wider knowledge of floral treasures of the Northern Hemisphere, I am convinced that *Davidia involucrata* is the most interesting and most beautiful of all trees which grow in the north temperate regions."



Did you know...

This tree is now so rare in the wild due to over-collection that the two specimens at the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard are regularly visited by botanists who have never had the opportunity to study the tree in their homeland.

Scan here for the
Harris Garden website

