



## Entrance Gardens Fact Sheet

### Overview

Intended to be an introduction to the Huntington, the entrance gardens present a controlled, rather staid landscape to the north of the Entrance Pavilion in contrast with the wild diversity found to the south in the main gardens. The Entrance Pavilion complex provides space for orientation, ticketing, rest rooms, lockers, members' services, meeting rooms, offices, and the bookstore. A garden terrace on the southeast corner provides shelter for outdoor luncheons, concerts, plant shows, and other events.

### History

Opened in 1981, the gardens were designed by landscape architect Yosh Kuromiya, with modifications by members of the botanical staff. The 37,000 ft<sup>2</sup> space was funded by donations from hundreds of individuals, corporations, and foundations who are acknowledged on the Donor's Wall in Friend's Hall.

### Collections

#### Lawns

The lawns of the Huntington are either winter-green lawns of hybrid tall fescues or winter-brown St. Augustine. In October, the gardens staff renovates lawns, most especially the winter-green ones. The extent of the renovation depends upon the condition and relative weed content of each lawn. More recently planted lawns typically require only thatch removal, aeration, over-seeding, and fertilizing. The most radical treatment is removal of all sod, amendment of the soil, and complete reseeding.

#### North of the Pavilion

- CALIFORNIA SYCAMORE or ALISO (*Platanus racemosa*) is growing to the east of the entrance. Mature specimens have picturesque, angled trunks that produce patchy, whitish bark that peels annually.
- COAST REDWOOD (*Sequoia sempervirens*) grows to the west of the entrance in the angle between the old and new buildings. This native of the Pacific coast ranges from Oregon to Monterey County. It is the world's tallest tree.

#### South of the Pavilion

- PINK SILK FLOSS TREE (*Chorisia speciosa*) puts on a year-round show in the planter by the coffee cart. Shortly after its leaves are shed in the fall, it produces brilliant rose-pink, five-petaled flowers. These are followed by large green, pendant fruits filled with cottony fiber which aid in seed dispersal. Even bare of fruit and flowers, the green, swollen, prickly-covered trunk is a conversation starter!
- TROPICAL HIBISCUS (*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*) had been in cultivation so long that no one knows where it originated, despite the name that refers to China. It thrives in sun and heat and blooms continuously.

- BIRD OF PARADISE (*Strelitzia reginae*) is the official flower of the City of Los Angeles. This southern African plant is a relative of banana.
- CORAL TREE (*Erythrina x sykesii*) line the steps into the garden. In the pea family, their showy orange-red flower clusters are nectar rich and attract a steady stream of birds. *Erythrina coralloides*, near the west Library entrance, is the official flowering tree of the City of Los Angeles.
- STRAWBERRY TREE (*Arbutus unedo*) grows at the spot where Full Garden tours gather. This small tree is a relative of the California madrones which can be seen in its small, creamy white, urn-shaped flowers and pretty (although not very tasty) fruit.
- BEECHEY BAMBOO (*Bambusa beecheyana*) grows in a striking clump at the edge of the gardens. This huge grass from southeastern China is an important commercial source of edible bamboo shoots.
- ENGLISH OAK (*Quercus robur*) was a favorite of Henry Huntington. The legendary outlaw Robin Hood and his band of merry men sheltered beneath its boughs in Sherwood Forest.

### *Programs*

- Friend's Hall and the Overseers' Room are home to more than 400 events each year including botanical shows, volunteer meetings, public lectures and concerts, conferences, board meetings, and meetings for other non-profit and corporate events, among other events.
- The Information Booth is staffed by Volunteers who offer directions, advice, and information about upcoming events.
- The Entrance Pavilion also has a small display on the history of the Huntington.