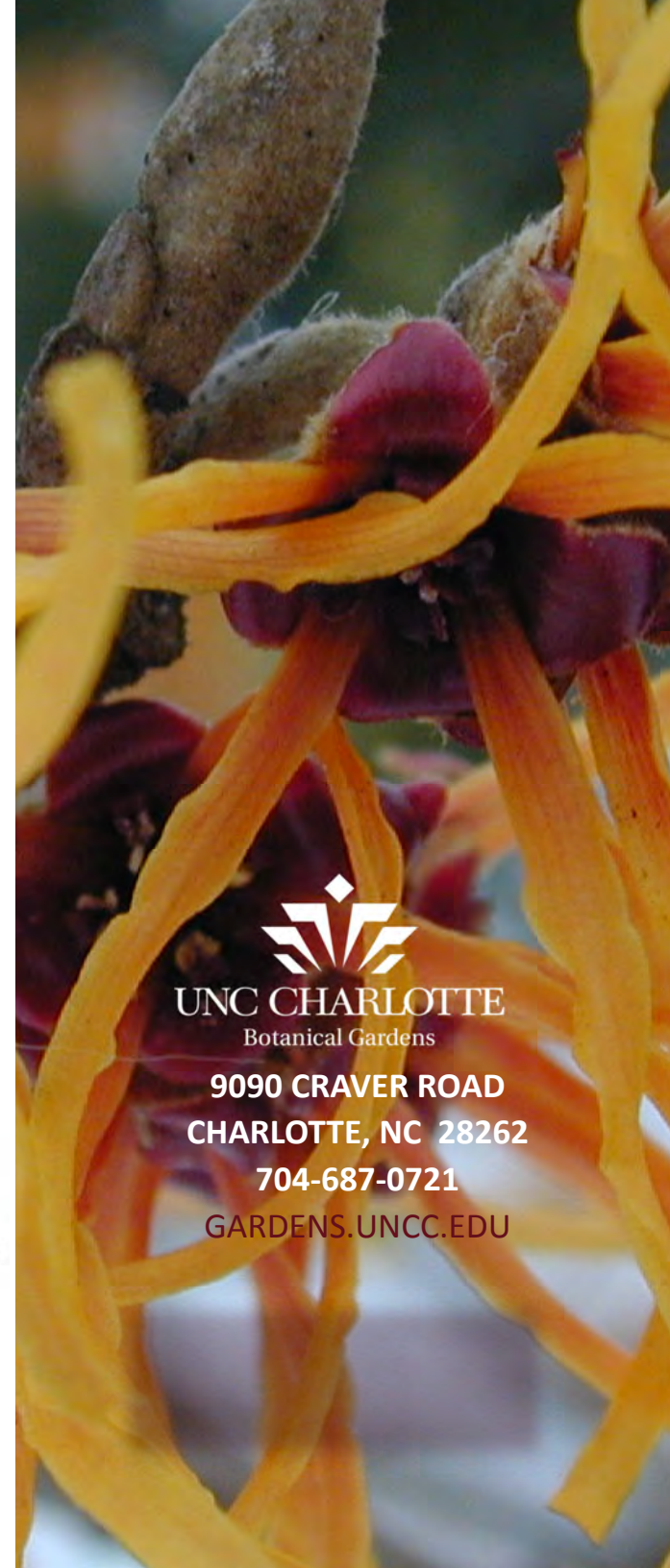
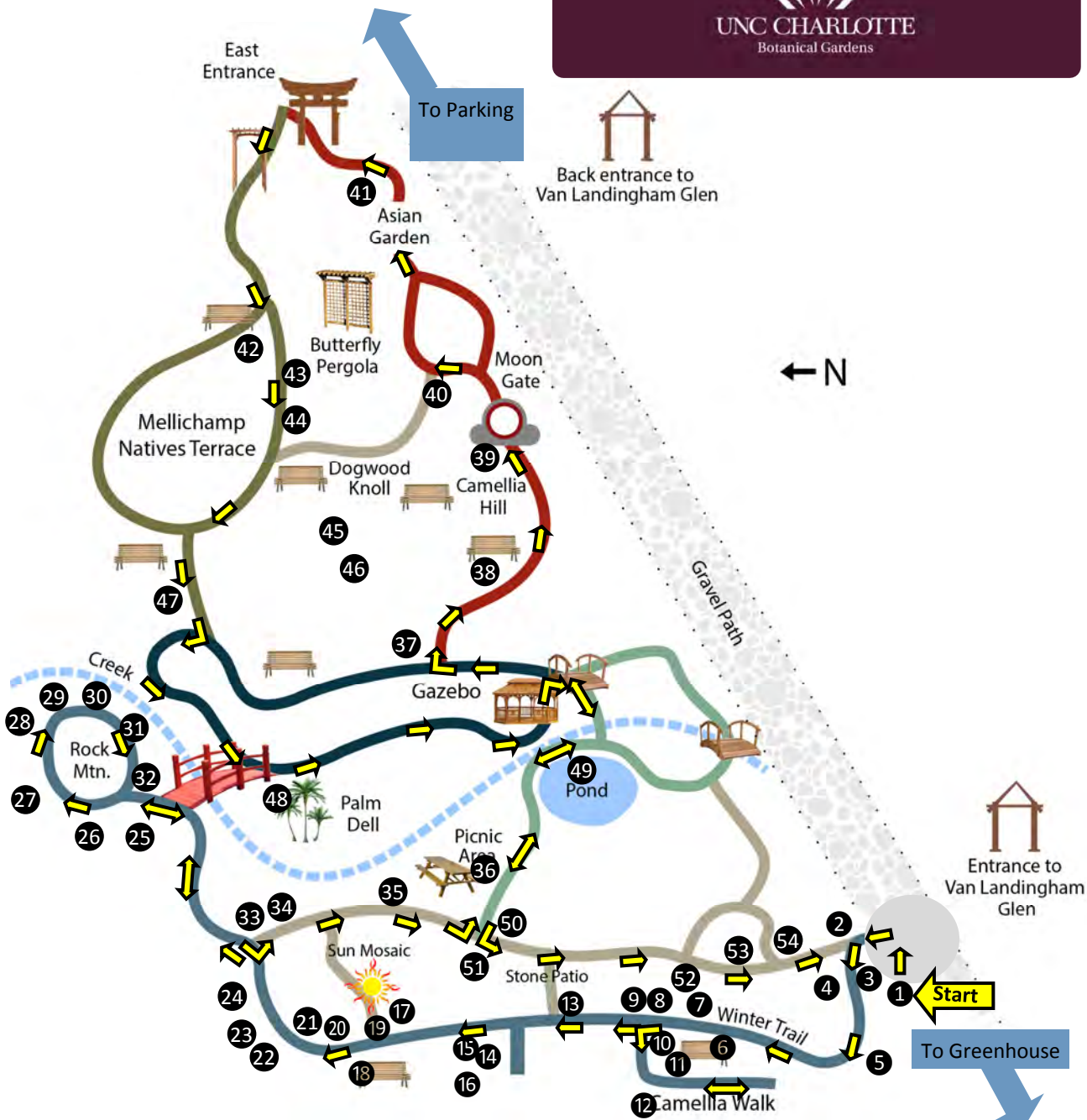


# The Winter Garden in the Susie Harwood Garden



## THE WINTER GARDEN

In the Susie Harwood Garden

### MAP AND PLANT LIST



UNC CHARLOTTE  
Botanical Gardens

9090 CRAVER ROAD  
CHARLOTTE, NC 28262  
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# THE WINTER GARDEN

Winter is just as interesting as any other time of year - with less distraction from heat, bright sun, humidity, weeds and pesky insects. Often, winter enhances visibility of the flowers, fruits, bark, and twigs.

This guide highlights plants within our gardens which possess particularly striking winter features:



Follow the path indicated by arrows on the map to find the plants in order as listed.

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1. **Winter Honeysuckle** (*Lonicera fragrantissima*) Sweet lemony fragrance wafts from this old-fashioned shrub throughout the winter. This Chinese species is well behaved but many *other* non-native honeysuckle species are undesirable noxious weeds, endangering gardens and wildlands. 
2. **Corsican Ivy** (*Hedera helix var. corsica*) An unusual variety of English Ivy, Corsican Ivy has very large, rounded leaves and a celery fragrance when crushed. However, like other varieties within this species, it can spread quickly and outcompete trees for sunlight, causing a slow decline. We keep our eyes on this one!  
3. **Fragrant Paperbush** (*Edgeworthia chrysantha*) Luminous yellow, fragrant flowers bloom in rounded, pendulous groups in February.  
4. **Spider Azalea** (*Rhododendron linearifolium*) Notice the fine "fuzzy" texture of the long, narrow winter-persistent leaves. The elegant narrow-petaled early spring flowers are deep pink. It is quite an unusual azalea in leaf and petal shape. Touch it! 
5. **Prostrate Himalayan Pine** (*Pinus wallichiana* 'Zebrina') This graceful Asian pine boasts sprays of long variegated needles. 
6. **Buttercup Winter Hazel** (*Corylopsis pauciflora*) Sweet-smelling, soft yellow bells adorn this deciduous shrub in early March. This species is used for bonsai. Closely related are witch hazel (*Hamamelis*) and *Fothergilla*, and more distantly related is sweet gum (*Liquidambar*), all of which are well represented in The Gardens and North Carolina's native flora.  
7. **Henry Anise-tree** (*Illicium henryi*) Species of this genus have fruits with a spicy odor similar to cardamom. Although some anise

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UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens  
for classes, workshops, and events,  
as well as for our other seasonal walks:

Spring: "Wildflower Walk"  
Fall: "In the Company of Trees"

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edge, adding texture and color to the winter garden. 🌿 🍌

42. **“Fantasy” Crepe-myrtle** (*Lagerstroemia fauriei* ‘Fantasy’) This selection with striking cinnamon-colored bark has no peer. 🌿
43. **Sweetheart Tree** (*Euscaphis japonica*) Fall fruits are striking, but the white striped bark, gnarled twigs, and red buds shine all winter. It is in the Bladdernut family (Staphyleaceae). 🌿
44. **Harry Lauder’s Walking Stick** or **Corkscrew Hazel** (*Corylus avellana* ‘Contorta’) This famous twisted-branched European hazelnut is festooned with tassel-like male catkins in late winter. 🌿 🌸
45. **First Lady Cherry** (*Prunus* ‘First Lady’) This early-blooming cherry rings in spring with deep pink pendant blooms on a columnar tree. This cultivar resulted from crossing *P. campanulata* (Bellflower Cherry) and *P. incisa* (Okame Flowering Cherry) 🌸
46. **Florida Torreya** or **Stinking Yew** (*Torreya taxifolia*) This handsome evergreen is a very rare native of the Appalachicola region whose nearest relatives are the plum yews (*Cephalotaxus*, Asia). 🍌
47. **Sycoparrotia** (*Sycoparrotia semidecidua*) This eastern European hybrid between *Sycopsis sinensis* and *Parrotia persica* uniquely displays its beautiful yellow “fall color” in January. 🍌
48. **Cold-Hardy Palms** A surprising number of exotic and native palms can be grown in our climate. See the tall-trunked Chinese Windmill Palm (*Trachycarpus fortunei*) and the southeastern natives: the large clumping Needle Palm (*Rhapidophyllum hystrix*), Cabbage palmetto (*Sabal palmetto*) and Dwarf Palmetto (*S. minor*). 🍌
49. **Nandina** (*Nandina domestica* ‘Twilight’)

Clusters of red berries develop more profusely when these “heavenly bamboo” are planted in groups. However, the fruit is very attractive to birds and has been reported as escaped throughout the SE U.S. where it is listed by 5 states as an exotic invasive plant. Gardeners should exercise caution! 🍏 🚫 🌿

50. **Momi Fir** (*Abies firma*) This heat-tolerant fir tree adds statuesque form and pleasant aroma to the large garden. In addition, the fir’s large upright cones add interest within a collection of other conifers such as pine and spruce. In its native Japan it is an important timber tree. 🌿
51. **Corktree**, or **Broad-winged Euonymus** (*Euonymus phellomanus*) Unusually wide, flattened wings on young branches crackle in winter winds. Fruits are similar to other plants in the Bittersweet family, such as our native Hearts-a-Bursting (*E. americana*) with pink pod-like exteriors which split to showcase bright red-orange flesh-covered seeds. 🌿
52. **Camellia** (*C. japonica* ‘Gov. Mouton’) The long-lasting peony-form, peppermint-candy colored flowers of this large heritage shrub spice up the winter landscape. 🌸
53. **Flying Dragon Trifoliate Orange** (*Poncirus trifoliata* ‘Flying Dragon’) With contorted bright green twigs AND thorns this hardy citrus relative “jumps out” at you in the winter landscape. 🌿
54. **Variegated Eleagnus** (*Eleagnus x ebbingei*) This evergreen shrub is a cross between *E. macrophylla* (Oleaster) and *E. pungens* (Silverthorn). Bright yellow variegated leaves glow more intensely as the weather gets colder. 🍌

species’ fruits are used to spice food, our regionally native Florida Anise-tree (*I. floridanum*) contains highly toxic compounds useful as pesticides. Our gardens have a collection of over 25 *Illicium* specimens. 🌿 🌸

8. **Sweet Box** (*Sarcococca confusa*) This evergreen shrub in the boxwood family has honey-scented flowers and dark glossy fruits. Planted nearby is *S. orientalis* or “Christmas box”, another winter bloomer in the same genus with longer leaves. 🌿
9. **Oriental Spruce** (*Picea orientalis*) This is a gorgeous slow-growing spruce adaptable to our hot summers. These specimens are 40 years old and could grow up to 120 feet in height! 🍌
10. **Japanese Witch Hazel** (*Hamamelis x intermedia* ‘Jelena’) This cultivar is a cross between Japanese and Chinese witch hazels. In February it has fragrant flowers with ribbon-like tri-colored petals and burgundy sepals, giving a copper appearance from a distance. 🌿 🌸
11. **Wheel-Tree** (*Trochodendron aralioides*) This is an east Asian evergreen shrub with green bark, glossy leaves with light green below arranged in a spiral, greenish wheel-like flowers (with the stamens forming the “spokes”), and a woody star-shaped fruit of follicles. 🍌
12. **Camellia Walk** This part of The Gardens includes many *Camellia japonica* cultivars, which have winter flowers ranging from white to pink to red to peppermint striped, both single and double flowered in form. The Camellia genus is native to east Asia and includes *C. sinensis*, the tea plant. A profuse February bloomer with unique red-

sepalled buds is ‘Crimson Candles’. This hybrid originated in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The Gardens house over 80 Camellia specimens. 🌸

13. **Coral-bark Japanese Maple** (*Acer palmatum* ‘Sango-Kaku’) Several specimens of Japanese Maples in The Gardens provide gorgeous fall color, but this one extends interest into the winter. The younger coral-red twigs glow brightly in direct winter sun. 🌿
14. **Thyme-leaved Rhododendron** (*Rhododendron serpyllifolium*) The tiniest of evergreen leaves provide unique winter texture. 🍌
15. **Italian Lords and Ladies** (*Arum italicum*) The beautiful variegated arrow-head shaped leaves of this plant emerge in the fall and persist through the spring in the Piedmont climate. After blooming, the leaves die back and the plant showcases a cylindrical cluster of red-orange berries. The leaves reach about 8-12 inches in length—tiny compared to another representative of the Araceae family, the Titan Arum, which has the largest leaf in the world, measuring up to 20’ in height (see THIS on display in our Greenhouse!) 🍌
16. **Japanese Apricot** or **Chinese Plum** (*Prunus mume*) A traditional symbol of the coming of spring, perseverance, and virtue, the winter “plum blossoms” have been depicted for centuries in Chinese art and writing. There are over 300 recorded Chinese cultivars, including those with single, double, white, pink, and red flowers. 🌸
17. **Winter Daphne** (*Daphne odora*) A classic winter garden selection, this evergreen shrub boasts sweet fragrant flowers in February. This shrub declines at 8-10 years and can be replaced via vegetative propagation in the summer. 🌿



18. **Ashe's Magnolia / Dwarf Big-leaf Magnolia** (*Magnolia macrophylla* × *ashei*) The silvery winter buds and twigs of this tree are unusually large, as are the summer leaves. However, the multi-stemmed shrubby form typically reaches a mere 10 - 20' height in comparison to *M. macrophylla*, which is 2 to 3 times as tall at maturity.

19. **Bloodtwig Dogwood** (*Cornus sanguinea* 'Midwinter Fire') Young twigs of this Eurasian shrub are a flame-red in the winter sun. *Sanguinea* has a Latin root meaning blood red. Our native herb, bloodroot, utilizes the same root in its scientific name: *Sanguinaria canadensis*.

20. **O'Spring Holly** (*Ilex cornuta* 'O' Spring') This variety of Chinese Holly has creamy yellow leaf edges and tips. New growth is a sunny yellow in winter and cannot be missed!

21. **Japanese Andromeda** (*Pieris japonica*) These cultivars all have conspicuous flower buds, but each one has distinctive foliage & form. The cultivar 'Pygmaea' has tiny leaves and a compact form which expands slowly, making it a good choice for small garden spaces like bed edges.

22. **Daphniphyllum** (*Daphniphyllum macropodum*) The striking evergreen leaves of this shrub are reminiscent of rhododendron with the added attraction of bright red petioles and a spiral arrangement at the end of stems.

23. **Spike Winter Hazel** (*Corylopsis spicata*) Graceful form with a several yellow flowers pendulant on naked winter twigs, this shrub contrasts with Buttercup Winter Hazel (above) which has larger yet fewer flowers in each cluster.

24. **Spike-tail** (*Stachyurus praecox* 'Issai') A string of 10-20 bell-shaped green and yellow

blossoms occur in dense cascading groups up to 4 inches long. March blooms buzz with industrious bees.

25. **Old Copper Azalea** (*Rhododendron oldhamii*) The white to rust-colored hairs of the leaves on this shrub are so dense they appear fuzzy. Leaves are dimorphic (of two shapes)—summer leaves are much reduced in size compared to spring leaves.

26. **Butcher's Broom** (*Ruscus spp*) This interesting evergreen sub-shrub has flattened stems which can be mistaken for leaves with spines. However, the clue is in the location of the flowers and red berries—arising from the center of these flat stems. The true leaves are microscopic.

27. **Lace Bark Pine** (*Pinus bungeana*) This multi-stemmed pine tree, native to China, has intriguing bark which is mottled at a young age, and sloughs off in irregular-edged plates at maturity to reveal a white under-bark, somewhat similar to our native Sycamore.

28. **Hardy Camphor Tree** (*Cinnamomum chekiangensis*) The evergreen leaves of this tree emerge each spring glossy and bright red. Fold or crush a leaf and notice that they smell like their relative – cinnamon (*C. cassia*).

29. **Alabama Croton** (*Croton alabamensis*) Native to only 3 counties in NW Alabama, this rare shrub flowers in March. It has silvery leaves (particularly the underside) that turn a unique orange in fall and winter. Fold or crush a leaf and notice both a fruity fragrance and milky sap (the sap is a tell-tale indicator that the croton is in the spurge family, which includes Poinsettia).

30. **Dendropanax** (*Dendropanax trifidus*) A small tree with handsome shiny evergreen leaves that are trifoliate (3-lobed) when young. This

plant thrives in shade. It is native to Japan, where it is often planted along a mossy path leading to tea houses. Also in the same family (Araliaceae) but very different in appearance are English Ivy and our natives: Ginseng and Devils Walking Stick.

31. **Cornelian Cherry** (*Cornus mas* 'Spring Glow') This small deciduous tree closely resembles our native Flowering Dogwood in leaf and twig (*Cornus florida*). However, it has rounded masses of tiny yellow flowers in February followed by large hanging edible "cherries". But beware! As with persimmon, tasters will get an astringent surprise if the fruit is eaten prior to ripening.

32. **Wintersweet** (*Chimonanthus praecox*) Oh! The fragrance in January! *Chimonanthus* actually stems from two Greek words meaning winter flower. This shrub is in the same family (Calycanthaceae) as Carolina-allspice (aka Eastern sweetshrub) which has similarly spicy-scented flowers in summer and fall. Both species have hanging fruits which can rattle when dry due to the large seeds trapped in the bag-like capsule.

33. **Mahonia Collection** (*Mahonia spp.*) Closely related to barberry, Mahonias ("grape holly") provide a striking display of bright yellow flower clusters which erupt from amongst the coarse, spiny evergreen leaves and transform into bunches of black berries with a whitish cast reminiscent of blueberries. There are 6 cultivars of *Mahonia* in The Gardens.

34. **Paper Bark Maple** (*Acer griseum*) This maple is rare in its native range, yet a relatively common cultivated tree. During winter, when the trifoliate leaves have fallen, the conspicuous brown peely bark has a chance in the spotlight.

35. **Poet's-Laurel** (*Danae racemosa*) An excellent long-lived plant with graceful evergreen branches & large orange berries. This member

of the asparagus family tolerates dry shade.

36. **Igiri Tree** (*Idesia polycarpa*) Rarely seen, the female trees are draped in striking red berry clusters all winter. The beautiful tight grey bark with horizontal-trending marks (lenticels) is reminiscent of young cottonwood.

37. **Umbrella Pine** (*Sciadopitys verticillata*) This tree is a unique conifer and the only surviving species in its family. It appeared in the fossil record about 230 million years ago, greatly preceding the Ginkgo (190 mya). The broad needles of the umbrella pine are fused together in pairs and arranged in distinct whorls.

38. **Lenten Rose or Hellebore** (*Helleborus foetidus*) This evergreen groundcover perennial has charming mid-winter flowers in muted shades of white, green, pink and purple. Popular in the late 1800s and early 1900s, this species has seen a resurgence due to breeders' efforts starting in the 1960s.

39. **Camellia Hill** - The east Asian *Camellia japonica* has provided the "southern" winter garden a profusion of flower forms and colors. 'Lady Clair' is a large pink-flowered cultivar that blooms from Thanksgiving to April. 'Matthonia' has formal doubled purple-red blooms. 'Professor Sargent' is a distinctive red.

40. **Winter Heath** (*Erica carnea*) This is a tiny-leaved shrub in the blueberry family with urn-shaped flowers in Feb. The genus contains nearly 900 species.

41. **Dwarf Variegated Gardenia** (*Gardenia radicans* 'Variegata'). This flower's heady, sweet fragrance is reminiscent of jasmine. It has the added appeal of a butter-yellow leaf