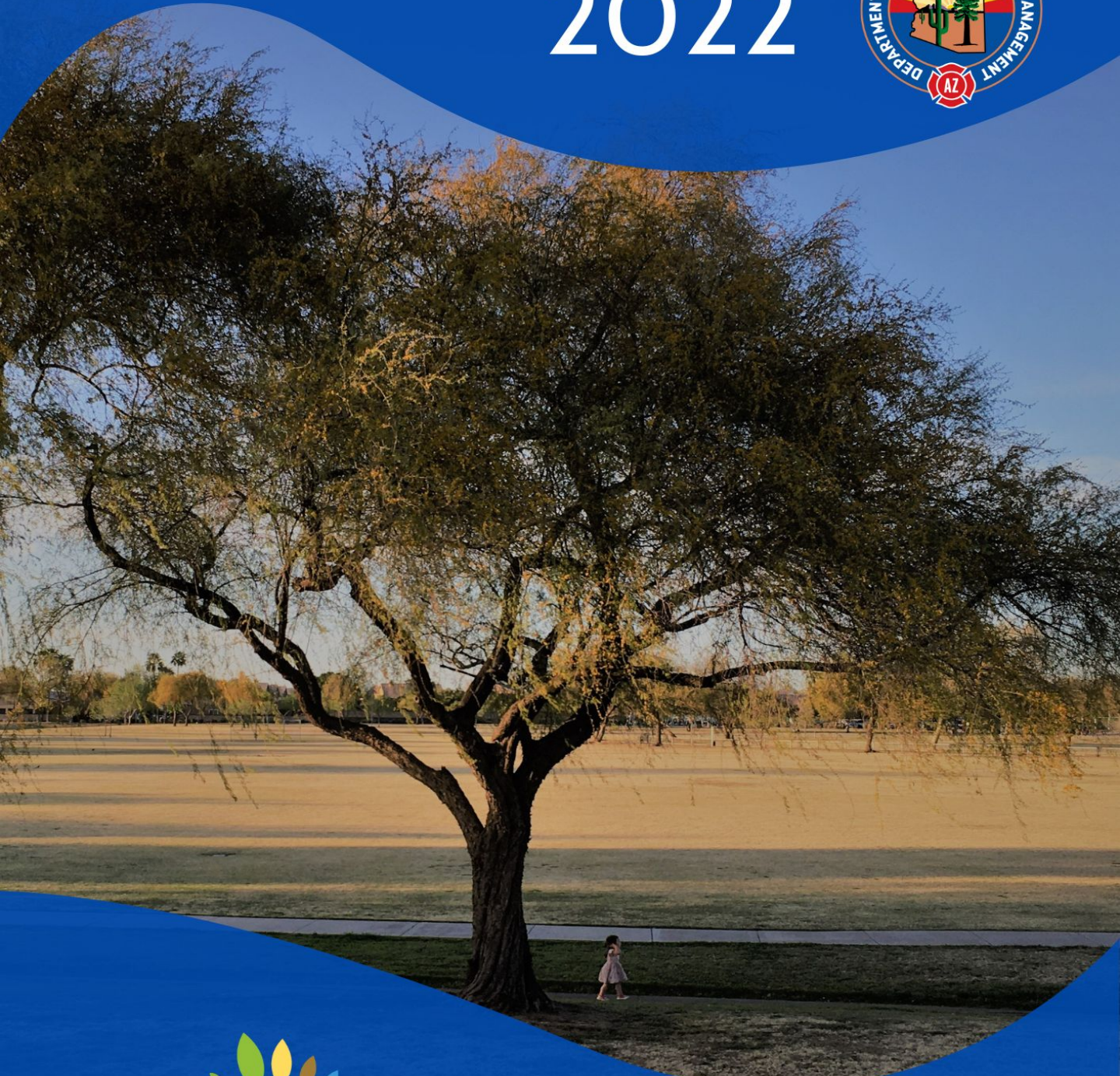


2022



Arizona's
Magnificent Trees

Magnificent
Tree Registry

Arizona's Magnificent Trees

Arizona is home to many amazing natural wonders including our trees and forests. From our sprawling Ponderosa Pine forests, to the largest Fremont Cottonwood in the nation found in Skull Valley, Arizona, to the Jail Tree used to shackle criminals before a prison was built in Wickenburg, Arizona – trees are rooted in our Arizona's history and heritage.

The [Arizona Magnificent Tree Program](#), recognizes amazing trees that are either the largest of their species (**Champion Trees**), trees that have cultural significance (**Heritage Trees**), and trees that are proven to have been in their same location before Arizona Statehood in 1912 (**Witness Trees**).

The Champion Trees attain their status often as a result of a combination of factors such as growing in a location that has been protected or excluded from major disturbances, trees cared for by people, good soil, plenty of water, excellent genetics, and a little bit of luck.

Trees submitted to the Arizona's Magnificent Tree Program are judged on whether the tree is a Champion by verifying three measurements. Tree measurements include – tree circumference, height, crown spread, A point score is awarded to each based on these measurements. The point score is calculated by adding **Tree Circumference + Tree Height + ¼ Crown Spread = Total Score**.

In 2022 Arizona recognizes 215 trees on the full Magnificent Tree list. There are 134 Champion trees and 81 Heritage and/or Witness Trees. Twelve volunteers helped us verify 36 trees across the state.

We are always looking for more Champions and Heritage Trees waiting to be discovered. Submit your nominations today on this form: [AZ Mag Tree Nominations](#). If you are interested in becoming a Champion Tree Hunter or Volunteer or would like to visit one of our amazing trees please contact the Arizona Magnificent Tree Coordinator at ucf@dffm.az.gov.



Blue Palo Verde (*Parkinsonia florida*) 2019

6363



This national champ was nominated by Brian Jansen and is owned by ADOT. Found in Yuma County the Blue Palo Verde is the Arizona state tree! It's distinguished by its blue-green bark. These trees are easy to find in Arizona but so far this is the champion for the U.S!

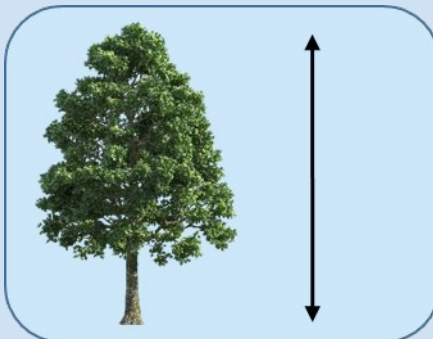
Circumference

86 inches



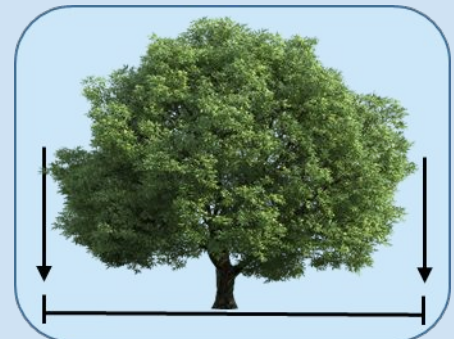
Height

45 feet



Crown Spread

48 feet



- TOTAL SCORE: 143 POINTS -

Mexican Blue Oak (*Quercus oblongifolia*) 2019

6280




Arizona's
Magnificent Trees
Champion Tree Program

Found in Santa Cruz County this state champion was nominated by Scott Roederer. Owned by the United States Forest Service this champion has a natural irrigation conservation tolerance to summer irrigation. The blueish texture of this tree makes it stand out!

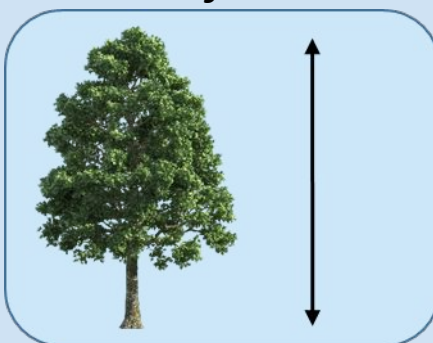
Circumference

72 inches



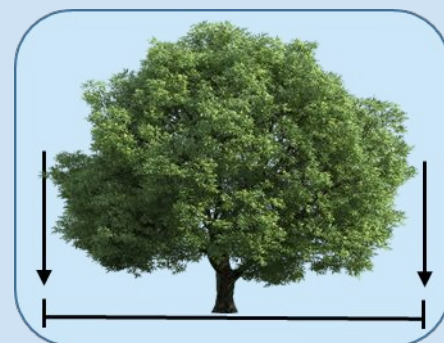
Height

37 feet



Crown Spread

50 feet



- TOTAL SCORE: 122 POINTS -

Netleaf Hackberry (*Celtis reticulata*) 2019

6447



This Champion located in Santa Cruz County in Patagonia State Park. It was nominated by Jon Orona. The Netleaf Hackberry is fairly drought tolerant making it great for Arizona. The berries are a crucial resource for birds and wildlife! Netleaf hackberry are rugged trees and highly drought tolerant.

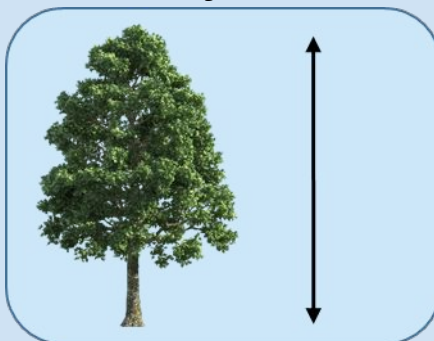
Circumference

92 inches



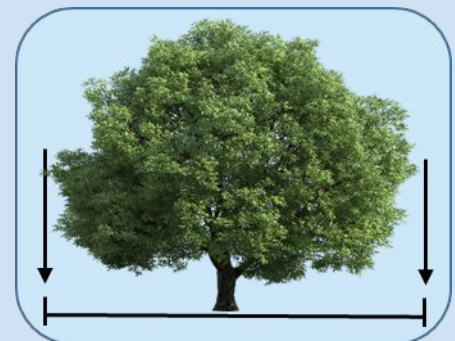
Height

52 feet



Crown Spread

45 feet



- TOTAL SCORE: 155 POINTS -

Senita (*Pachycereus schottii*) 2019

AZ0096



This columnar senita cactus was nominated by John Blackwell. Senita originated in Mexico. They branch at the base, have relatively few, widely spaced, ribs. Its most distinguishing feature is the tips of the mature, taller stems which are covered with long, hairlike, grey spines. This cactus is both a Champion Tree and and Heritage Tree.

Circumference

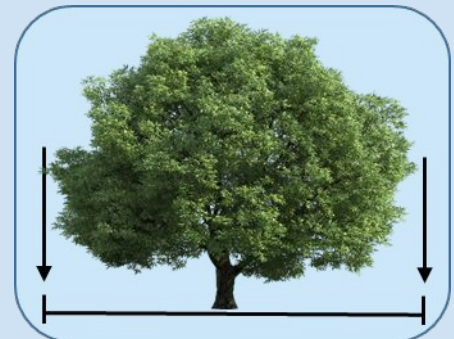
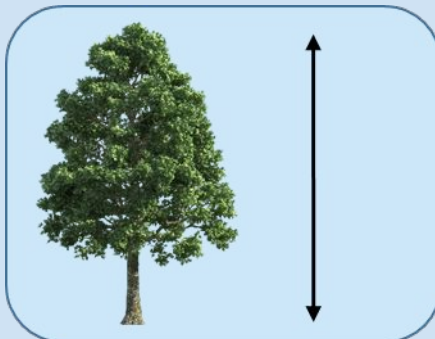
17 inches

Height

14 feet

Crown Spread

11 feet



- TOTAL SCORE: 34 POINTS -

Jumping Cholla (*Cylindropuntia fulgida*) 2019

6369



This jumping cholla is a state champion nominated by Jon Orona and is found in Pinal County on state land. This cactus is unique because of the detachment of the spines giving it its name. Even though the needles “jump,” this cactus is not poisonous!

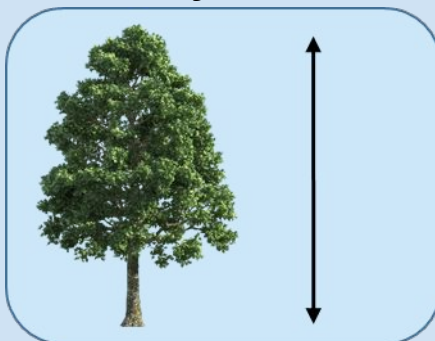
Circumference

20 inches



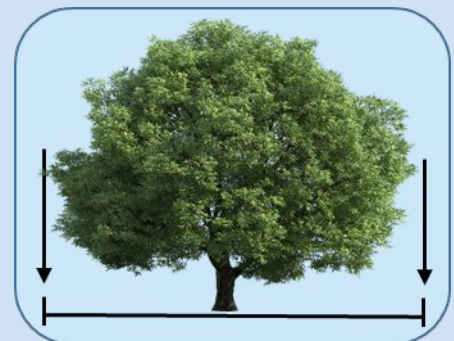
Height

9 feet



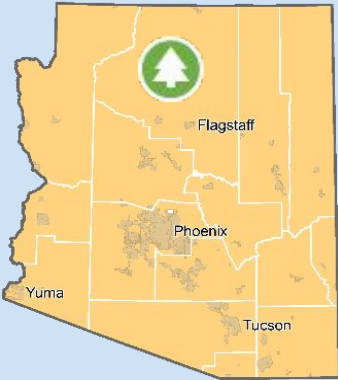
Crown Spread

12 feet



- TOTAL SCORE: 32 POINTS -

Stansbury Cliffrose (*Purshia stansburiana*) 2019 AZ0002



From Coconino County this state champion can be found on National Park Service land. Nominated by Mark Lewing and Fred Friesz this tree is at a whopping 20 feet when the average is around 4-10 feet. Stansbury cliffrose is found on cliffs, hillsides, mesas, and in washes on the hot and dry south and west aspects, at elevations from 2,500 to 8,500 feet. It is an important browse plant for deer and sheep in the winter.

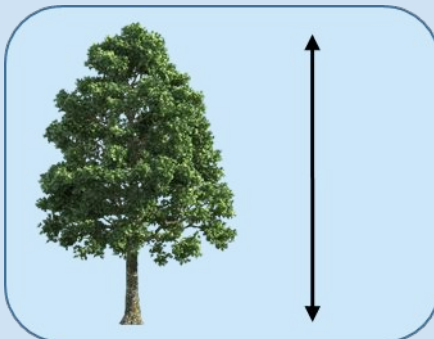
Circumference

31 inches



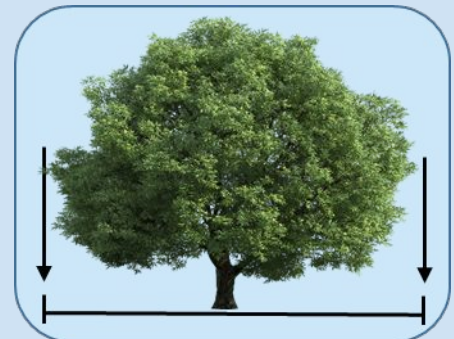
Height

21 feet



Crown Spread

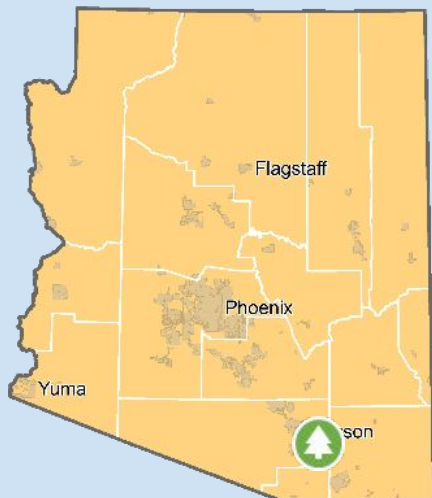
13 feet



- TOTAL SCORE: 55 POINTS -

Kidneywood (*Eysenhardtia orthocarpa*) 2019

AZ 0116



This Champion kidneywood was nominated by Jackie Lyle and Nick Shipley. The kidneywood tree is native to the U.S. and Southwest Mexico and It is considered a deciduous small tree or shrub with flowers that attract butterflies with their vanilla scent.



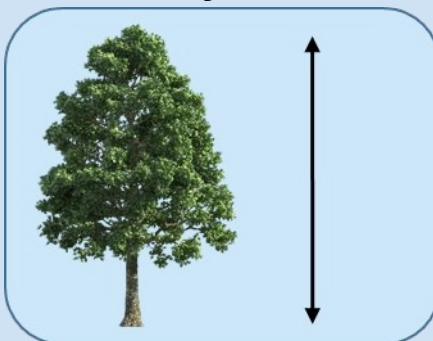
Circumference

87 inches



Height

19 feet



Crown Spread

31 feet



- TOTAL SCORE: 114 POINTS -

Gregg Ash (*Fraxinus greggii*) 2019

6413



This Gregg Ash was nominated by Scott Roederer. Found at the University of Arizona this Champion is from a family of smaller trees. It requires a low amount of water and blooms in March, April, and May. It was named after Josiah Gregg a traveling botanist. The 'Libby Davison' cultivar was developed by Civano Wholesale Nursery. It's size is slightly smaller and temperature tolerance broader than the straight species.

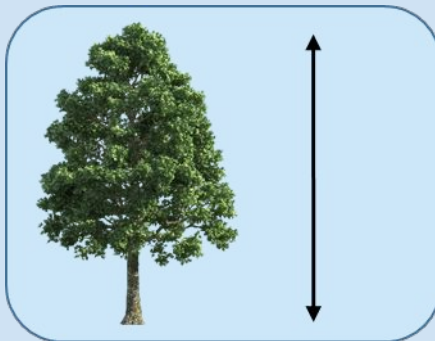
Circumference

12 inches



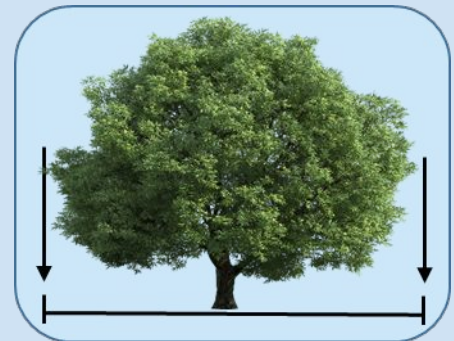
Height

24 feet



Crown Spread

23 feet



- TOTAL SCORE: 42 POINTS -

Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*) 2019

AZ0036



This honey mesquite is a state co-champion nominated by Scott Roederer and is located at Tohono Chul Park. Honey Mesquite are a willow-like, open, low growing tree. Average height reaches 35 feet. The honey mesquite canopy is delicate in nature and is a winter deciduous tree, meaning it loses its leaves during the winter season!

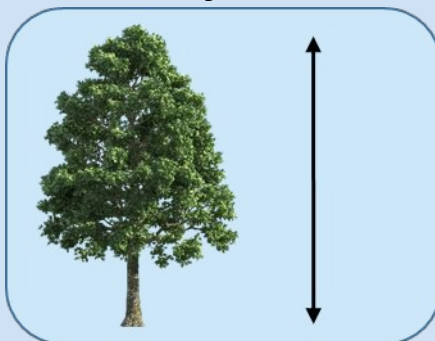
Circumference

97 inches



Height

36 feet



Crown Spread

53 feet



- TOTAL SCORE: 146 POINTS -

Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) 2020

6698



This champion Quaking Aspen was nominated in 2020 by Jon Orona, found in Apache County, and is owned by the United States Forest Service. This tree is considered a shade tree and an ornamental. It is one of the most widespread species in North America and grows well in mountain areas.

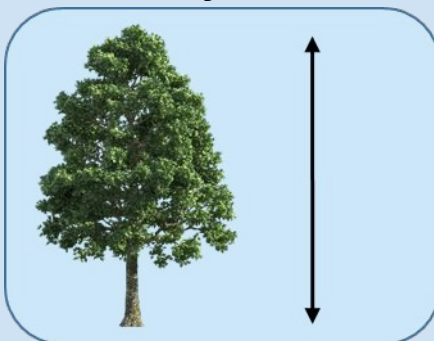
Circumference

100 inches



Height

76 feet



Crown Spread

37 feet



- TOTAL SCORE: 185 POINTS -

Whitethorn Acacia (*Vachellia constricta*) 2020 6695



This whitethorn acacia was nominated by Jackie Lyle and Nick Shipley. From Pima County this state champ on average is 19 feet tall. Armed with straight spines in pairs, the compound leaves are thick.

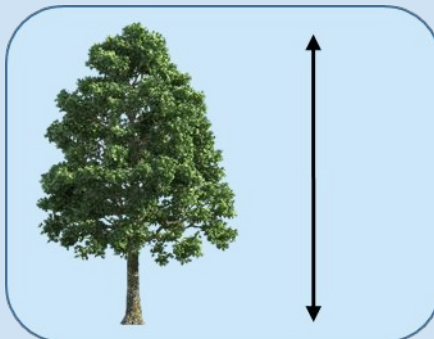
Circumference

33.5 inches



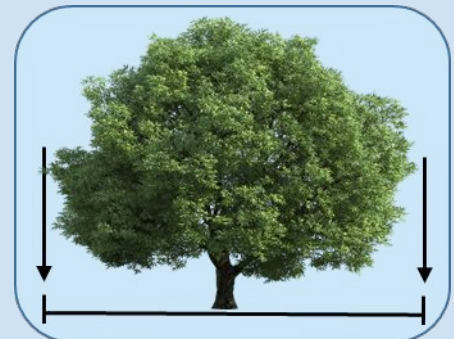
Height

26 feet



Crown Spread

27.5 feet



- TOTAL SCORE: 68 POINTS -

Common Fig (*Ficus carica*) 2020

AZ0101

This Common Fig was nominated as a Heritage Tree by Jackie Lyle and Nick Shipley. Found in Pima County, this state champion is a multi-trunk tree. On average it grows to 15-30 feet. The canopy is open but low. This is also considered a heritage tree with how long it's been around and it holds some historical value.



Circumference

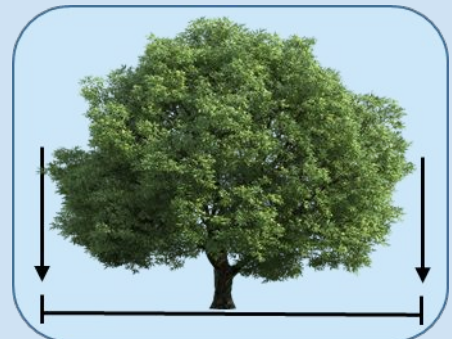
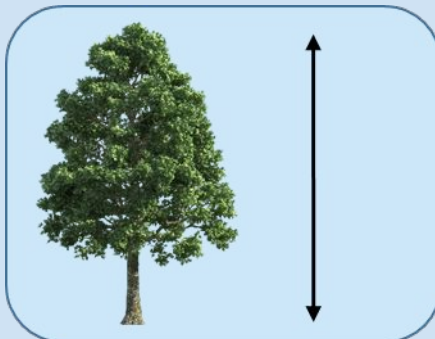
41 inches

Height

24 feet

Crown Spread

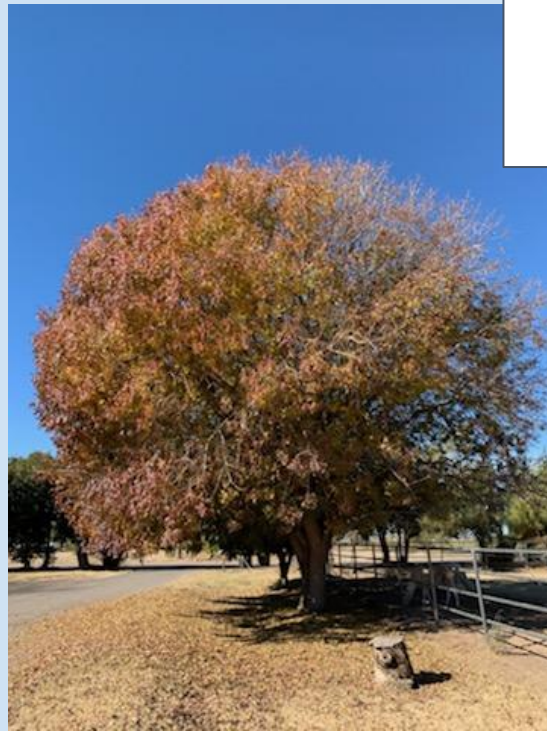
29 feet



- TOTAL SCORE: 72 POINTS -

Red Pusch Pistache (*Pistacia atlantica*) 2020

AZ0115



This Champion is from Pima County and was nominated by Jackie Lyle. This tree is considered ornamental so it produces no nuts. With a large trunk it has a strong canopy making it great for shade. In the fall this deciduous tree's leaves turn a brilliant red, adding color to our urban landscapes where planted.

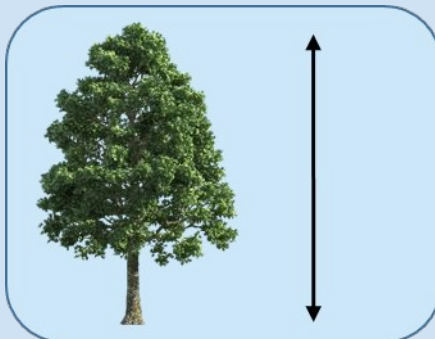
Circumference

95 inches



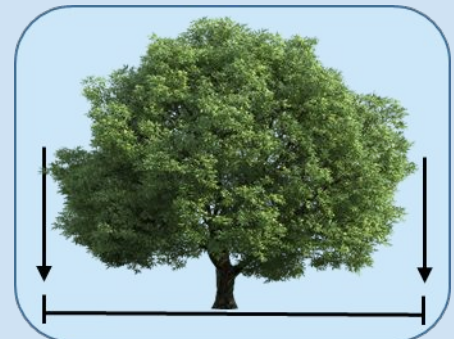
Height

43 feet



Crown Spread

51.25 feet



- TOTAL SCORE: 151 POINTS -

Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis*) 2021

AZ0102



This Champion Aleppo Pine is from Pima county and owned by a local church in Tucson. Nominated Stan Lowery, this tree is unique with the needle-shaped leaves. Originating from the Mediterranean, it is commonly cultivated in arid regions. Aleppo pine is characterized by 3-4" leaves in bundles of two.

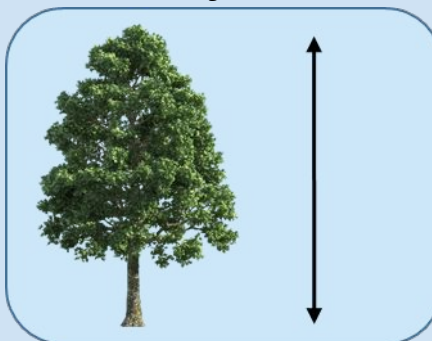
Circumference

166 inches



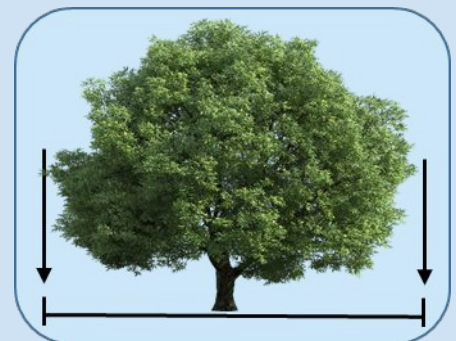
Height

84 feet



Crown Spread

89 feet



- TOTAL SCORE: 272 POINTS -

One-seed Juniper (*Juniperus monosperma*) 2021 6827



This One-Seed Juniper Champion was nominated by Dan Smith. Found in Yavapai County owned by the Sky Ranch Lodge. These trees are often 6-20 feet tall but this one is 32 feet! With a multi-trunk and gnarly look!

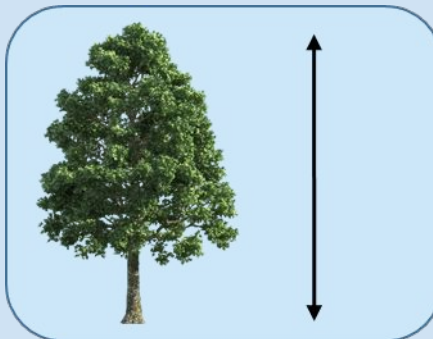
Circumference

140 inches



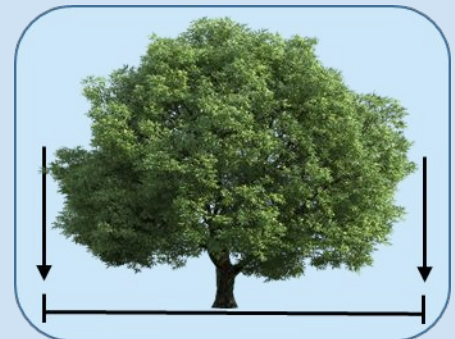
Height

32 feet



Crown Spread

41 feet



- TOTAL SCORE: 182 POINTS -

Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) 2021 AZ0107



This Champion sweet gum was nominated by Dan Smith and is in Yavapai County at the Sky Ranch Lodge. It typically is a large tree with palmate leaves. The fruit are spiny dark brown balls known as capsules. Sweet gum are not generally found in the western United States outside of botanical gardens.

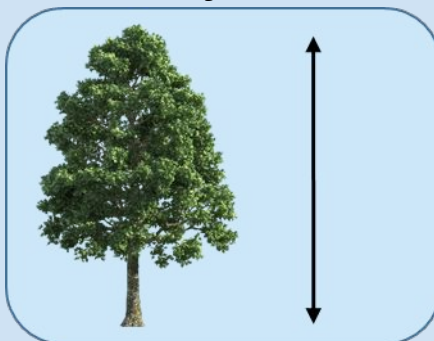
Circumference

42 inches



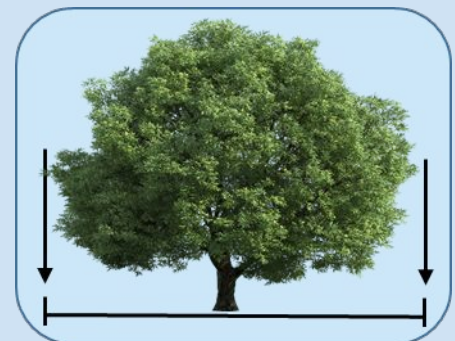
Height

50 feet



Crown Spread

31 feet



- TOTAL SCORE: 100 POINTS -

Arizona Sycamore (*Plantus wrightii*) 2021

AZ 0114



This Champion Arizona Sycamore was nominated by Nick Shipley and Kathy Montgomery and is in Yavapai County. It was featured in a [2022 Arizona Highways Magazine Article](#). With an average of 80 feet tall, it has large leaves that resemble a star. These trees require a steady amount of water to grow.

Circumference

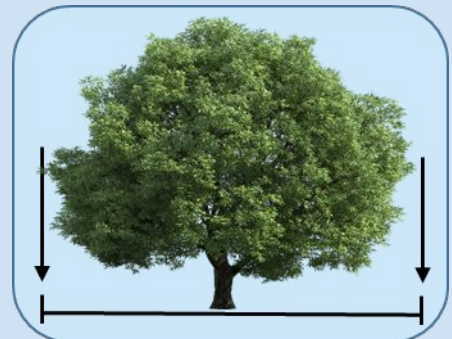
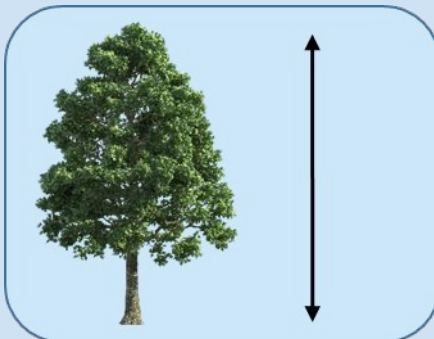
428 inches

Height

82 feet

Crown Spread

99.5 feet



- TOTAL SCORE: 535 POINTS -

London Planetree (*Plantus acerifolia*) 2021

AZ0108



This London planetree was nominated by Dan Smith and is located in Yavapai County at the Sky Ranch Lodge. London plane trees produce green, spiky fruits in clusters and the leaves are similar to a sycamore. It is a highly adaptable species and does well in open spaces such as parks.

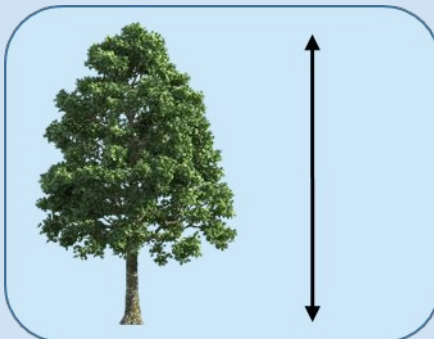
Circumference

84 inches



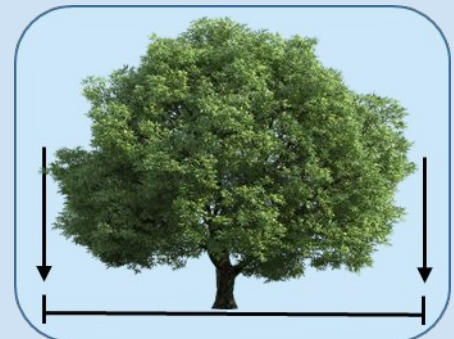
Height

112 feet



Crown Spread

43 feet



- TOTAL SCORE: 207 POINTS -

'Krauter Vesuvius' (*Prunus Cerasifera*) 2021

AZ0106



This Krauter Vesuvius plum was nominated by Dan Smith and is located in Yavapai County at Sky Ranch Lodge. This Champion flowers with pink blooms and has dark purple leaves. In spring the leaves are red but darken to purple in the summer.

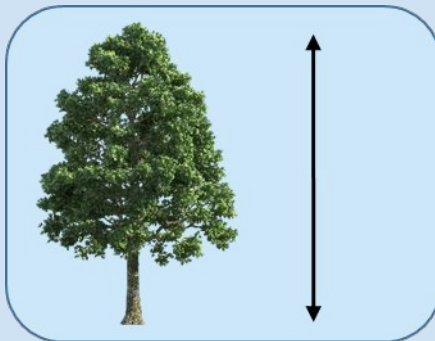
Circumference

24 inches



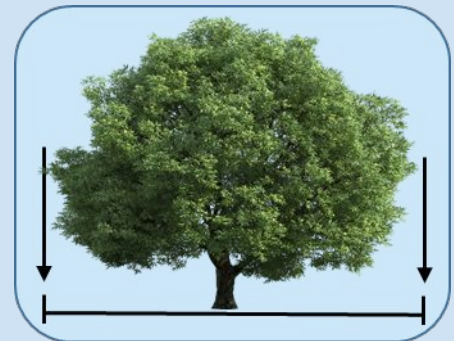
Height

47 feet



Crown Spread

23 feet



- TOTAL SCORE: 76 POINTS -

Mondel Pine/Afghan Pine (*Pinus elderica*) 2021 AZ0105



This Mondel/Afghan Pine was nominated by Dan Smith and is located in Yavapai County at Sky Ranch Lodge. Afghan pine originate in the Mediterranean, are commonly used as Christmas trees and have an average height of 40 feet and is a dense tree. They appear in many of our state's southern urban areas. They look very similar to Aleppo pines, and it's difficult to tell them apart. A difference is the needles on a Mondel pine emerge from the candle as it elongates. So, the candle looks thick and lush as it grows and expands.

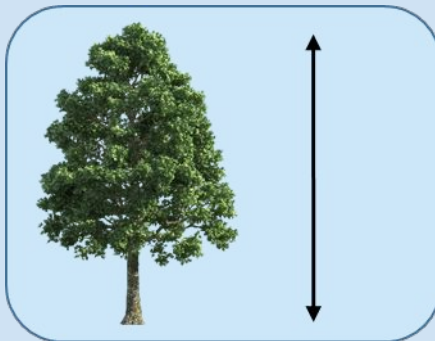
Circumference

72 inches



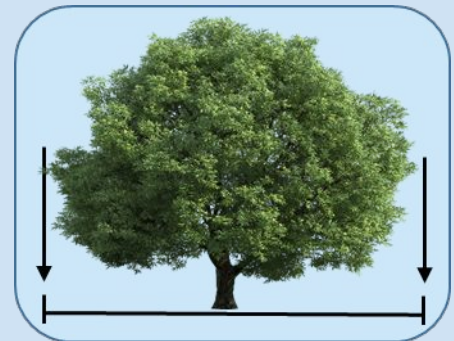
Height

105 feet



Crown Spread

51 feet



- TOTAL SCORE: 190 POINTS -

Sweet Acacia (*Vachellia farnesiana*) 2021

6762



This Champion was nominated by Jon and Meadow Orna and is located in Maricopa County. Sweet acacia have small yellow puff flowers. They appear in clusters in late winter or spring. Sweet acacia are native to the Chihuahuan desert but grow in many arid landscapes across the globe. Their bark, roots, and flowers have many ethnobotanical uses.

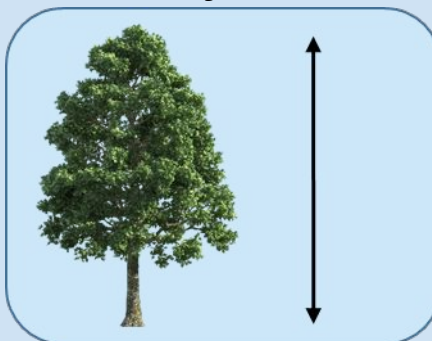
Circumference

79 inches



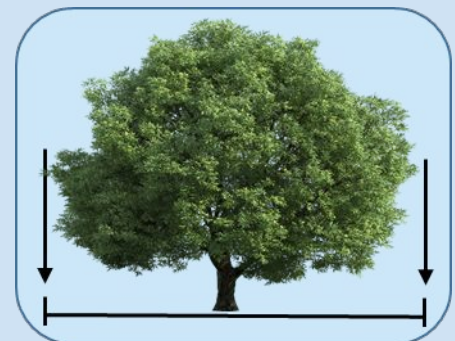
Height

45 feet



Crown Spread

60 feet



- TOTAL SCORE: 139 POINTS -

Greythorn/Lotebush (*Ziziphus obtusifolia*) 2021 AZ0113



This Greythorn found in Maricopa County at the Hassayampa Preserve was nominated by Eric Hough. The Champion tree is densely branched, with multiple trunks. The branches are light gray and covered with a waxy bloom. They also have thorn-tipped branchlets.

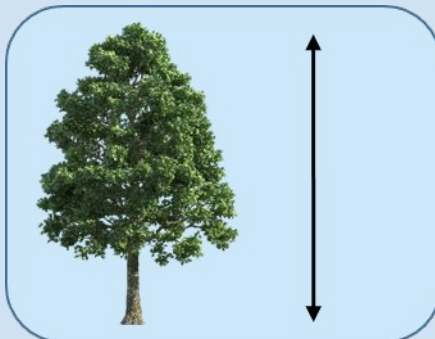
Circumference

43 inches



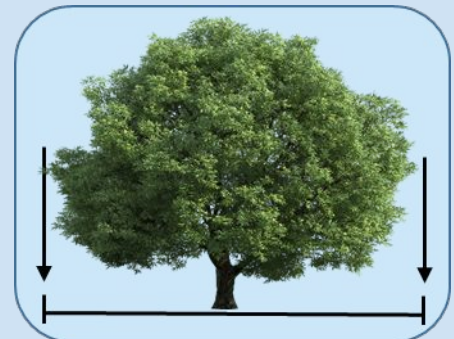
Height

24 feet



Crown Spread

24 feet



- TOTAL SCORE: 73 POINTS -

Reidhead Cottonwood (*Populus spp.*) 2021 AZ0111



This cottonwood was nominated by Jay Brimhall and is located in Navajo county. The cottonwood itself is a rapid growing tree and is great for shade. Nearly every region in the U.S. has a cottonwood! This tree in particular is a part of our Heritage Tree/Witness Tree Program. It dates back to 1836, before any settler of European heritage. This tree also partook in celebrations between the Reidhead family and an Apache tribe after the annual corn harvest.

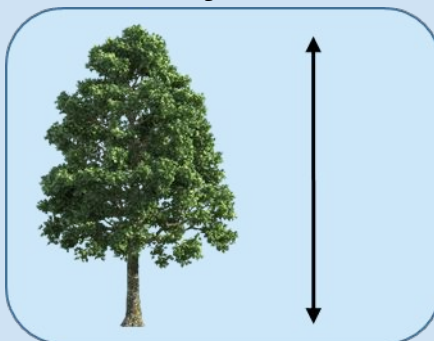
Circumference

43 inches



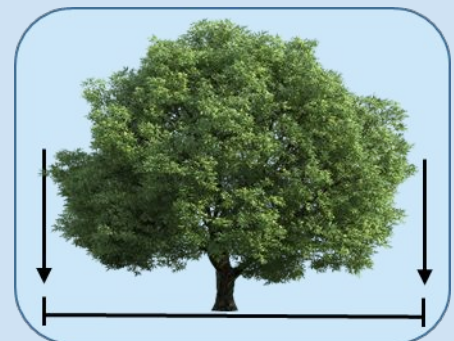
Height

24 feet



Crown Spread

24 feet



- TOTAL SCORE: 73 POINTS -