

Winter - Environmental Scavenger Hunt

Yakima Area Arboretum

(Winter Activity: 60-120 minutes)

Welcome to the Yakima Area Arboretum! Use the self-guided tour map, your observation skills, and your smarts to locate as many of the different items below. Good luck!

Hint: Start on the walkway at the Jewett Interpretive Center then work your way north towards the rose garden and beyond. Circle through the Arboretum, working your way back to the Jewett Interpretive Center around the pond.

- Goldfish & Water Fountain Dedicated to Donald Jewett:** Mr. Jewett was a local businessman and philanthropist. He and his wife Helen provided the funds to build the Jewett Interpretive Center.
- Tall Grasses:** Ornamental grasses love our valley's ample sunshine and irrigation water. Tall grass species like pampas grass can reach heights of 8 feet or taller.
- A Walnut Shell:** Did you know that black walnut trees produce a natural herbicide called juglone (5-hydroxy-alpha-naphthaquinone) that inhibits the growth of some nearby plants. This herbicide is contained in the tree's roots, leaves and nut husks, and the residue remains in the soil for years even after the tree has been removed.
- Crabapple:** The Arboretum has one of the largest crabapple collections in the Pacific Northwest. Crabapples are known for their beautiful spring color and not their apples, which tend to be sour tasting. The apples are small, less than 2 inches in diameter and are a favorite snack for the wildlife that call the Arboretum home.
- Tree label:** The Arboretum has over a 1000 labeled trees and shrubs. To find each label look on the south side of the tree about chest high. Each label features the scientific name (Genus or generic name and species, variety or hybrid) and common name of the tree, plus its grid number.
- Sundial:** Sundials are an ancient form of telling time. The earliest known date back to 3500 BC. The sun casts a shadow on a dial face or flat surface and the time is indicated where the shadow falls. What time do you think it is _____?
- Gazebo:** The gazebo is a very popular spot for picture taking and marriage proposals.



- Flowering witch hazel:** Yes, plants do bloom in winter, typically in January and February but some even in November and December. Witch hazels have spider like flowers that come in shades of yellow to coppery red and are often very fragrant. Do they smell good to you?
- A multi-stemmed tree trunk:** Tree trunks come in many forms, from one main trunk that rises from the ground to the very top of the tree, to ones that come out of the ground and branch off in many different directions.
- Prickly bur:** The fruit of the Chinese chestnut tree (*Castanea mollissima*) comes in the shape of spikey balls that break open to reveal 2 or 3 brown nuts. Do you find any on the ground? Don't touch. Ouch!
- A giant Christmas tree:** Each December the Arboretum proudly lights up Yakima's tallest Christmas tree. A large bucket truck or skilled tree climber is needed to get the lights on the tree.
- Beehive:** The Arboretum has its own apiary or collection of beehives. The Central Washington Beekeepers Association cares for the bees throughout the year. Bees are essential pollinators in nature. Bees help plants produce fruit, nuts, seed fiber and hay.
- Tree with white bark:** There are several trees on the arboretum grounds with white bark. Find one and label it here _____ or take a picture.
- A Dr. Seuss Tree:** One of our favorite trees on the grounds is the Weeping Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). Can you find it?
- A tree with silvery blue needles:** The blue spruce *Picea pungens* provides wonderful 4-season interest. They can grow to be 75feet tall.
- A tree for dinosaurs:** The dawn redwood or *Metasequoia* is one of three species of redwoods and can grow to be 200 feet tall. Dawn redwoods have been on the earth since dinosaurs roamed the land, but were thought to be extinct. Amazingly, in 1944 a small stand was discovered in China. In 1948 the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University sent staff to collect the seeds, they then distributed them to various universities and arboretum's worldwide.
- Bird blind:** Look for the Arboretum's bird blind in the natural area. Stand behind the wall and flip down a shutter. Be quiet and wait for the small seed eating birds to appear. Look up in the trees for predator birds looking to eat the seed eating ones. Sometimes other small animals such as rabbits and squirrels can be found visiting.
- Bridge:** The bridge that links the natural area to the main part of the Arboretum was built by Ryan Olson in 1988. Ryan built the bridge to earn his Eagle Scout rank. Many of the Arboretum's small structures were built by Eagle Scout candidates.
- Arboretum logo carved in a rock:** A hard one. Good luck.

