



GROSVENOR
BELGRAVE SQUARE GARDEN
TREE WALK

The garden of Belgrave Square was originally laid out by Thomas Cubitt in the early 1820s, to act as a landscape for the new houses of the Square. Influenced by a design of J C Loudon's, the Square remains faithful in its original network of paths and retains some of its original planting in the form of the mature plane trees.

The aim of this walk is to highlight the variety of trees by looking at specimens of different sizes and maturity, as well as species displaying different shape, texture and leaf colour.

The walk begins at the garden gate opposite No 17 and follows the perimeter path clockwise.

The information in this leaflet has come from a number of sources, including W J Bean's *Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles* and the *Hillier Gardener's Guide to Trees & Shrubs*. Colleagues at the Grosvenor Gardens Department have also provided many interesting facts on individual specimens within the gardens.

Trees are often best seen from a distance, so do take time to stand back to view them to their best advantage.

Enjoy your walk

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Landscape Manager

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THE TREES

1 Enter the garden by the West Gate and turn immediately left to tree number 1. This young specimen of a **walnut** (*Juglans regia*), which leans towards the light, was planted about 20 years ago. A valuable timber tree, it has been used over several centuries as both furniture and garden ornament.

2 **Japanese Maple** (*Acer japonicum* 'Aconitifolium'). This cultivar of maple was known in the late 19th century and has superb autumn colour. In recent years it has proved more drought resistant than other species of maple, making it a valuable garden addition.

3 **Red Horse Chestnut** (*Aesculus x carnea*). Planted here less than 30 years ago, this species is one that could have been used in the original planting scheme. It has rose pink "candles" in late spring and handsome foliage throughout the summer.

4 **Red Oak** (*Quercus rubra*). Originating from North America, this fast growing deciduous tree was introduced to Great Britain in 1724 and has been a popular ornamental tree ever since. Its autumn colour is spectacular in good years.

5 **Honey Locust** (*Gleditsia triacanthos*). Another 18th century introduction, this tree has delicate feathery foliage. It protects itself with spines which in its native country grow to an enormous size.

6 This **London Plane** is likely to be 120 years old, dating back to the original layout of the garden. Used much less these days, the exquisite pink timber was once used as lacewood veneer.

7 **Japanese Maples** (*Acer palmatum*). This species of acer has a more typical form of leaf than *Acer japonicum aconitifolium* and has the same potential for great autumn colour.

8 **Horse Chestnut** (*Aesculus hippocastanum*). The conker tree was introduced from Turkey in the late 16th century where conkers were used as a medicine for horses. It always makes an elegant parkland tree.

9 **Sweet Gum** (*Liquidambar styraciflua*). Another American introduction, this tree produces handsome foliage of purple, crimson and orange in the autumn. It gets its name from the fragrant resin it produces.

10 **Cappadacian Maple** (*Acer cappadocicum*). A medium sized deciduous tree, this species was introduced in 1838 from the Caucasus. Its most ornamental feature is its butter yellow autumn colour.

11 **Tree of Heaven** (*Ailanthus altissima*). A species of Chinese origin, this fast growing tree was introduced in 1751. Female trees produce large bunches of reddish fruits in mid-summer.

12 **Carpinus betulus**. This young specimen of this British native is proving the species tolerance of the shady conditions found in Belgrave Square. It will naturally live for about 150 years and is commonly used as a hedging plant. When coppiced or pollarded it is able to live for much greater periods.

