



Celebrating Trees in NUS

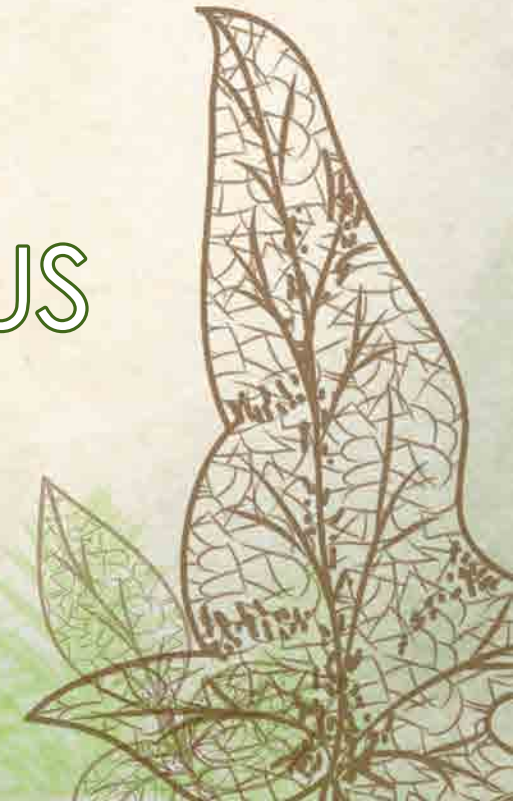
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Celebrating Trees in NUS



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FOREWORD

I would like to commend the Office of Facilities Management for taking the initiative to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Singapore's independence, as well as NUS' own 110th anniversary, through the planting of 110 trees in 2015, and a total of 2,000 new trees over the next 5 years.

This will enhance the lush greenery that is a distinctive feature of our NUS campus - one that is much admired and loved by generations of students, faculty and staff, past and present.

The benefits of cultivating a rich and diverse landscape of trees and plants extend beyond practical advantages such as greater shade and a more aesthetically pleasing environment. Regular exposure to nature and greenery can have a positive effect on cognitive and emotional well-being, as well as encourage social interactions. These are attributes which are vital in the promotion of the University as a place of learning, intellectual dynamism, and rich social relationships.

This tree-planting initiative is also reflective of the leading role NUS has played in the research, preservation and promotion of Singapore's rich biodiversity. The planting of 2,000 new trees re-affirm our commitment not only to preserving our natural heritage, but also to continuing on a path of sustainable development.

Professor Tan Chorh Chuan
President
National University of Singapore

INTRODUCTION

In conjunction with NUS' 110 years of founding, this commemorative booklet celebrates our campus' distinctive, natural fauna and flora heritage.

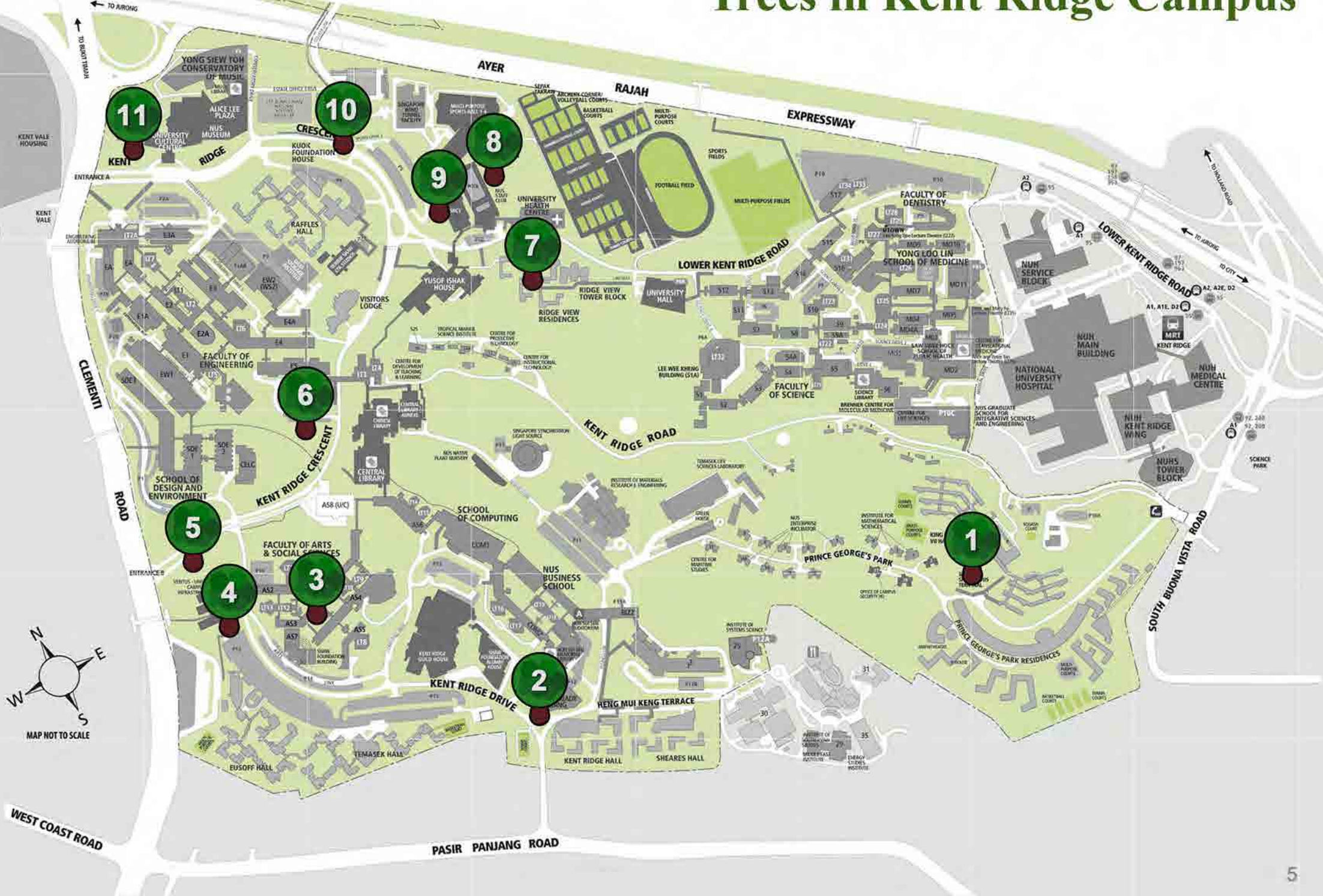
“Celebrating Trees in NUS” features the various species of trees found in NUS that represents our natural heritage— trees that have left an indelible mark on our campuses. The contents in this booklet also exemplify NUS' continual efforts towards sustainability, preserving our natural heritage through conservation and renewal in our physical environment.

Through this booklet, we hope that you will enjoy and appreciate our natural heritage as much as we have enjoyed maintaining and renewing it.

Office of Facilities Management
University Campus Infrastructure



Trees in Kent Ridge Campus





The Kapok Tree at PGPR bus terminal



Immature seedpod



Mature seedpod



Trunk has thorns which are conical in shape



Ceiba pentandra

Common name:
Kapok Tree, Silk Cotton Tree

Family name:
Malvaceae (Bombacaceae)

Location:
Prince George's Park
Residences (PGPR) bus
terminal

Claim to Fame:
This is possibly one of the few
remaining mature Cotton Trees
found outside of the Singapore
Botanic Gardens in Singapore.

This Cotton Tree has a
distinctively slender tree form
which sets it apart from the
surrounding trees.



Pink Tecoma located in front of the Mochtar Riady Building



Pink Tecoma blooming with pink flowers that have a trumpet-like shape



Tabebuia rosea

Common name:
Pink Tecoma

Family name:
Bignoniaceae

Location:
Divider between Mochtar Riady Building and Kent Ridge Hall

The Pink Tecoma flowers twice a year and it is eagerly anticipated by the NUS Business School community.

The flowering of this tree can be likened to the Cherry Blossoms in Japan. When in full bloom, the pink flowers present itself as a huge bouquet welcoming visitors to NUS.



Red Flame has five bright red petals in a single flower



Bark is smooth and grey in colour, with a fine surface appearance



The huge, umbrella-shaped crown of the Red Flame in full bloom after the hot spell in 2014



Delonix regia

Common name:
Red Flame

Family name:
Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

Location:
Balinese Garden at the
Faculty of Arts and Social
Sciences (FASS)

When in full bloom, the flowers of the Red Flame adds a splash of colour to the surrounding grey building scape. This tree, when in bloom, never fails to lift the spirits of the staff and students in FASS.



Leaves shed during dry weather before new leaves emerge



Trunk is durable. Hard wood is used for the construction of furniture.



Pink Mempat trees seen lining the main driveway to Ventus.



Cratoxylum formosum

Common name:
Pink Mempat

Family name:
Hypericaceae

Location:
Ventus Carpark

Claim to Fame:
The Pink Mempat was first planted by then-Prime Minister, the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew, to kickstart Singapore's islandwide Green Movement. In the same spirit, three Pink Mempat trees were planted by NUS' senior management, during the opening of Ventus, to mark University Campus Infrastructure's commitment to building sustainable and green developments.



Top: Bark of the Tembusu trunk is dark brown and has a deeply-fissured texture
 Bottom: Tembusu trees line the green space beside Ventus



Cryptophyllum fragrans

Common name:
 Tembusu

Family name:
 Gentianaceae (Loganiaceae)

Location:
 Naturalised Garden next to
 Ventus

This cluster of Tembusu trees formed the initial nucleus of the naturalised garden, welcoming visitors as they pass through entrance B.

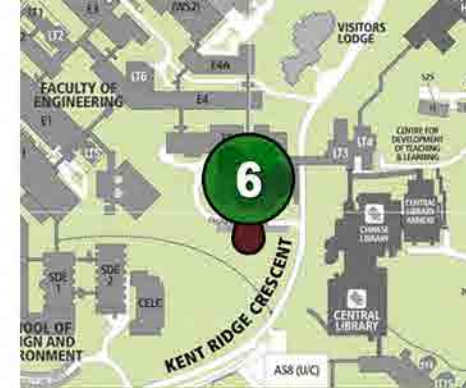
The tree forms of the Tembusu create an interesting visual architecture. The trees also serve as a welcoming perch to many species of birds, small mammals and reptiles.



Trunk of the Tembusu is upright. Wood is yellowish-brown during its early growth phase.



Left and Bottom-right: Tembusu planted by Dr Amy Khor for Climate Action Day on 26 August 2013



Cryptophyllum fragrans

Common name:
Tembusu

Family name:
Gentianaceae (Loganiaceae)

Location:
Walkway to Butterfly Garden
from Kent Ridge Crescent

Claim to Fame:
This Tembusu was planted by
Dr Amy Khor, Mayor of South
West CDC, during NUS'
Climate Action Day 2013.

This tree-planting event was
a significant milestone as it
celebrates a broader
collaboration between NUS,
its student community
(represented by NUS Students
Against the Violation of the
Earth (SAVE), and the larger
social community (represented
by South West CDC).



The four Rain Trees located within the blocks of Ridge View Residential College



Samanea saman

Common name:
Rain Tree

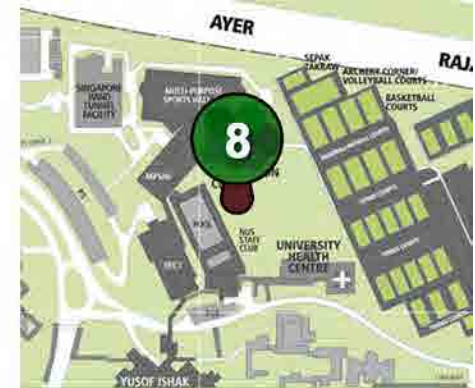
Family name:
Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

Location:
Ridge View Residential College
(Formerly Kent Ridge Hall)

These magnificent Rain Trees planted in the central courtyard of each block have provided shade and stress relief for the thousands of students who have lived in these residences.



The Angsana, with a huge umbrella crown, next to the poolside of the Sports and Recreation Centre



Pterocarpus indicus

Common name:
Angsana

Family name:
Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

Location:
Poolside and carpark of Sports and Recreation Centre (SRC)

This "King" has ruled the NUS SRC with its imposing tree form and majestic crown.



Located at the entrance of the former Sports & Recreation Centre, this large Khaya has left an indelible impression on generations of TeamNUS sportsmen and sportswomen



Khaya senegalensis

Common name:
African Mahogany

Family name:
Meliaceae

Location:
Entrance of the former SRC (also the main entrance of the University Sports Centre (USC) that is currently being developed).

This is the unofficial “TeamNUS” tree as many TeamNUS photographs were taken with the Khaya as their backdrop.

This Khaya has been incorporated into the design of the new University Sports Centre. It is hoped that future generations of TeamNUS sportsmen and sportswomen will continue to use this Khaya as a backdrop for their team photographs.



Collared Fig (critically endangered) at the roundabout leading to University Town



Leaves are arranged spirally and have a leathery texture



Tree has a single trunk with a few pillar roots



Ficus crassiramea

Common name:
Collared Fig

Family name:
Moraceae

Location:
Roundabout divider at
south-end of College Link

Claim to Fame:
This nationally Critically
Endangered tree was kindly
provided by the National Parks
Board (NParks) in 2011.
Owing to the rarity of this
species, this tree is a useful
source of seeds and stem
cuttings for propagating this
species in Singapore.



Tembusu planted by Prof Lim Pin and Prof Shih Choon Fong on 1 June 2000



Leaves are arranged in a single spiral



Cryptophyllum fragrans

Common name:
Tembusu

Family name:
Gentianaceae (Loganiaceae)

Location:
University Cultural Centre

Claim to Fame:
This Tembusu tree was planted to mark the change of NUS leadership from Prof Lim Pin to Prof Shih Choon Fong in 2000.

This tree-planting ceremony also signified the start of a new management direction to propel NUS into becoming an intellectual and entrepreneurial hub in Singapore.

Trees in University Town





Bird's nest fern (*Asplenium nidus*) seen growing on the Rain Tree as epiphyte



The crown of the Rain Tree can be seen clearly from the Town Plaza in UTown



Samanea saman

Common name:
Rain Tree

Family name:
Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

Location:
District cooling plant in
University Town (UTown)

Claim to Fame:
This Rain Tree, which is more than 50 years old, was part of the former Warren Golf Club landscape before UTown was constructed.

This is the largest Rain Tree on campus, with a large umbrella-shaped crown that is able to provide plenty of shade. This tree partially shades the district cooling plant, serving the cooling needs for the entire UTown.



The Angsana at the Town Green in UTown



Pterocarpus indicus

Common name:
Angsana

Family name:
Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

Location:
Town Green

The Town Green was designed around this majestic and distinctive Angsana. Its commanding presence at the crest of the Town Green will be remembered by many generations of NUS alumni to come.



The Tembusu's lofty height allows it to provide shade for the area below



The Yellow Vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus goiavier*) with its prey, resting under the Tembusu



Crytophyllum fragrans

Common name:
Tembusu

Family name:
Gentianaceae (Loganiaceae)

Location:
Education Resource Centre,
UTown

This pair of mature Tembusu trees, with its grandiose size and magnificent crown, is a testimony showcasing NUS' efforts to introduce engineering solutions in retaining existing mature trees when designing new developments.

"Floating" floor slabs were introduced to ensure that the tree roots are not damaged and the tree form is maintained.



Two Tembusus located within the building of the Education Resource Centre in UTown



Trunk is straight and rough with a slightly greyish bark



Leaves are compounded with little boat-shaped leaflets



Seeds of the Brazilian Rubber Tree



The Brazilian Rubber Tree serves as a reminder of the rubber industry in Malaya



Hevea brasiliensis

Family name:
Euphorbiaceae

Common name:
Brazilian Rubber Tree

Location:
Yale-NUS College

Claim to Fame:
This tree from the colonial period is probably one of the oldest and largest Brazilian Rubber Trees found in Singapore today.

The Brazilian Rubber Tree was introduced into Malaya in 1877 as part of the British Colonial effort to develop the rubber industry in the region. With the clearing of plantations for new developments, these trees are now relatively rare and can only be found in some parts of former plantations, mostly in Pulau Ubin.



The *Margaritaria indica* is an endangered species in Singapore



Trunk is generally reddish-brown, though colour of the trunk is dappled.



Leaves are thin in texture, with a waxy surface



Fruits from the *Margaritaria indica*



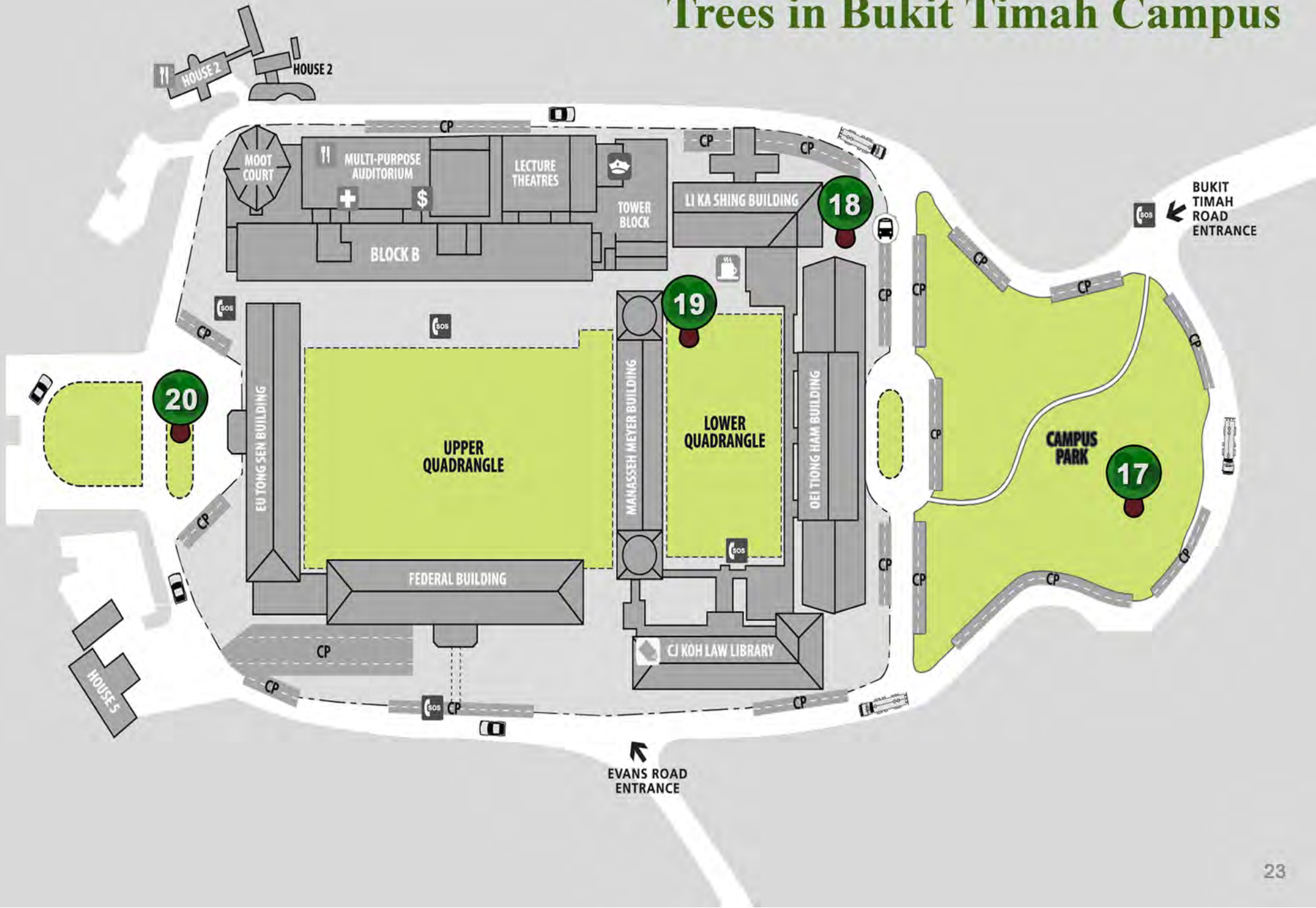
Margaritaria indica

Family name:
Euphorbiaceae

Location:
Yale-NUS College

Claim to Fame:
The *Margaritaria indica* is a rare and endangered species. This tree is the only one of its kind and one of only three trees in the entire Southeast Asia. This tree is gazetted and protected as a Heritage Tree by NParks.

Trees in Bukit Timah Campus





A panorama view of trees at the BTC Central Park



When mature, the branches of the Tembusu curve in an almost 90-degree manner



This cluster of Tembusu creates an enchanted forest-like setting at Central Park.



Cryptophyllum fragrans

Common name:
Tembusu

Family name:
Gentianaceae (Loganiaceae)

Location:
Central Park, Bukit Timah
Campus (BTC)

This cluster of Tembusu is spread out on the open green of the Central Park in BTC. Together, they create an enchanting and almost magical forest setting.



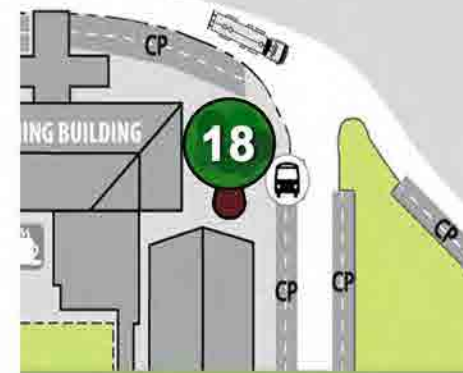
Leaves are small, oblong in shape and dull green in colour



Bright red seeds of the Saga Tree is one of its distinctive characteristics



Pyrrosia longifolia growing on the tree trunk



Adenanthera pavonina

Common name:
Saga Tree

Family name:
Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

Location:
Internal Shuttle Bus stop
next to Li Ka Shing Building

With its beard of parasite plants growing on its trunk, this old Saga Tree resembles a grand old man. This tree never fails to attract the attention of waiting passengers at the bus stop.



Pterocarpus indicus

Common name:
Angsana

Family name:
Fabaceae (Leguminosae)

Location:
Lower Quadrangle, Courtyard

Located in the heart of BTC, this mature Angsana has seen many couples meeting in its shade since Raffles College days.



Top: A prominent Angsana tree located at the corner surrounded by four buildings—Block A, Oei Tiong Ham, Library and Manasseh Meyer. Its large crown provides shade that almost covers half the court.

Bottom: Its wrinkled trunk collar and large drooping crown are distinctive features of this tree.



The Beauty Leaf found in front of the Eu Tong Sen Building. Its crooked and twisting branches gives it a unique sculpture-like appearance



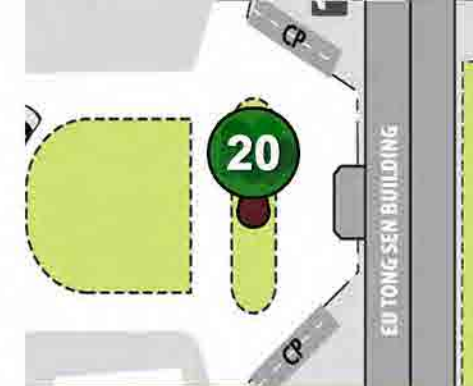
Lower part of trunk is short with branches extending from the bottom



Leaves are leathery in texture and oblong in shape, growing opposite of one another



Pigeon Orchid (*Dendrobium crumenatum*) is found on the branches of the tree



Calophyllum inophyllum

Common name:
Beauty Leaf

Family name:
Calophyllaceae

Location:
Front of Eu Tong Sen building

This Beauty Leaf has an almost sculpture-like form which presents itself as a natural street sculpture, greeting visitors to the Eu Tong Sen building. Standing at nearly 20 metres, this slow-growing tree can grow to a potential height of 30 metres.

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