Trail Guide

Houghton Garden
in The Webster Conservation Area
Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

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TRAIL GUIDE FOR THE HOUGHTON GARDEN

Welcome to the Houghton Garden. As you walk along the winding paths toward the central water feature, Houghton Pond, you are entering 10 acres of a woodland garden started in 1906 by Clement S. and Martha Gilbert (Colt) Houghton. Since 1968, the Newton Conservation Commission and the Chestnut Hill Garden Club have worked to preserve this lovely ‘wild garden’ with its winding paths overhung by Azalea and Rhododendron, its lagoon-like pond, and Mrs. Houghton’s Rock Garden.

The HOUGHTON TRAIL starts at the main Suffolk Road entrance and is designated by yellow markers. It crosses the stone bridge and continues counterclockwise along Houghton Pond and Hammond Brook, then across Woodman Stream by a wooden plank bridge and into the Rock Garden.

We feel the future preservation of this garden is an important public amenity for the community, giving a glimpse into the Golden Age of American gardens.
We hope you agree. Enjoy your visit.

The Chestnut Hill Garden Club
May, 1997
RULES

1. The Garden is open to the public from dawn to dusk.
2. No bicycles or other vehicles, horses or ponies, are allowed.
3. No dumping or littering. Refuse barrels are located at each entrance.
4. No hunting or shooting, camping or fires.
5. No damage to trees or plants.
6. Dogs must be leashed and owner must remove dog feces.
7. Please do not pick the flowers.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The preservation and maintenance of this garden reflects the inspired and dedicated efforts of many citizens over the last twenty-five years. Among the many who deserve special thanks are the following:

The Newton Conservation Commission, under the able direction of Mrs. Helen Heyn, coordinated the 1973-76 opening after twenty years of neglect. Since then Mrs. Heyn has given unstinting personal attention to preserving and maintaining the Garden. Her inspiration and commitment are greatly appreciated.

The Chestnut Hill Garden Club has contributed funds, expertise, and energy to the repair, restoration, and maintenance of the garden. Under the leadership of Mrs. Charles Hovey and Mrs. Mark Hopkins, the Club worked with the Arnold Arboretum to label plant material and develop the first Trail Guide. This work is on-going. Special thanks to Mrs. Hopkins for the 1996 plant labels, and to the Houghton Family and Mrs. John Houghton, for the generous support and the priceless background information she has given over the years.
HISTORY OF THE HOUGHTON GARDEN

In 1906 Mr. & Mrs. Clement S. Houghton simultaneously built their Spanish-Mission style house (#152 Suffolk Road) designed by Chapman & Frazer, and started developing their 26-acre garden with guidance from Warren M. Manning in designing the Houghton Pond/Hammond Brook/Woodman Stream water feature and surrounding naturalistic garden you can see preserved in this public garden.

Both Houghtons corresponded with Prof. Charles Sargent of the Arnold Arboretum, and experimented by planting new species (this was the heyday of Asian plant collecting) as well as requesting plant disbursements. At the turn of the century, even as the trolley lines advanced the area’s development as a commuting suburb, Chestnut Hill was renowned for its estates and their gardens. The Houghtons took an active role in this world.

Martha Houghton became an ardent admirer of the English author Reginald Farrer and his book The English Rock Garden. In 1918 she began work on what she described as perhaps her favorite “workshop”, the creation of an alpine rock garden on a ledge overlooking Houghton Pond. The challenge of growing temperamental alpine plants continued to interest her for the rest of her life, and in 1934 she was one of the founders of The American Rock Garden Society. She served as its President from 1936 to 1940.

After visiting several English woodland gardens, the Houghtons began to experiment with the naturalization of primulas, raising hundreds of these lovely spring beauties from seed sent from Bodnant in England, and interplanting them with luxuriant native ferns. This mass of delicate color, combined with naturalized plantings of spring bulbs along the paths and under the dappled shade of gray birches created a paradise that one garden writer described in 1937 as “the best example in this country of becoming
design, proper construction, and desirable arrangement of flower and foliage .... a wonderful pageant of Naturalistic beauty...

Sadly much has changed since the garden’s peak between the World Wars. After Mrs. Houghton’s death in 1956, the garden was abandoned, and the property eventually subdivided. The beloved ‘wild garden’ fell into decay as volunteer trees crowded out the original plantings and the waterways silted up. Fortunately, in 1968 Mayor Monte G. Basbaf and the Newton Conservation Commission persuaded the City of Newton to take nearly ten acres of the original garden by eminent domain as part of the Webster Conservation Area. In 1979 the Houghton Garden Annex and gate east of Woodman Stream were also taken by eminent domain by the City of Newton. Since that time, the Chestnut Hill Garden Club and the Newton Conservation Commission have worked to preserve the Houghton Pond and woodland garden section of the Houghtons’ original estate.

As the garden has matured, the more open feel of the woodland and rock garden as Mrs. Houghton conceived it has changed. Denser shade has eliminated all but a few of the birches; invasive plants have crowded out the delicate primulas; the dwarf conifers that were planted as miniature evergreen mounds now tower over the Rock Garden; and today we contend with run-off of road pollutants that the Houghtons could not have imagined in their beautiful pond. Still the creation of this ‘wild garden’ has proven a great legacy of the Houghtons’ lifelong passion for gardening. While the formal gardens of their neighbors have all but disappeared, in the turn of a shady path and the opening of a vista, the public can still experience the Houghtons guiding hand and inspired composition.
Houghton Garden Yellow Trail
Designated by yellow markers on trees

Main entry is on Suffolk Road in Chestnut Hill. The trail is just under a half mile; it takes about 30 minutes at a leisurely pace.

* Indicates location of the six illustrated specimens at the back of the guide
# Yellow Trail Plant List

**Key:**
- **Bold Type = Tree**
- **Plain Type = Shrub**
- **Italic Type = Perennial/Ground Cover**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Right/Left of Trail</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Suffolk Road Entrance - West Gate</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Crabapple</td>
<td>Malus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Sugar Maple</td>
<td>Acer saccharum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Choke Cherry</td>
<td>Prunus virginiana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Black Tupelo (Black Gum)</td>
<td>Nyssa sylvatica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>group along fence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Common Buckthorn</td>
<td>Rhamnus cathartica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>just before path</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R&amp;L</td>
<td>Lily of the Valley (May)</td>
<td>Convallaria majalis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R&amp;L</td>
<td>Carrionflower (Briar patch - side path)</td>
<td>Smilax herbacea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Burr Oak</td>
<td>Quercus macrocarpa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R&amp;L</td>
<td>False Lily of the Valley</td>
<td>Maianthemum canadense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Checkerberry (aromatic wintergreen)</td>
<td>Gaultheria procumbens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R&amp;L</td>
<td>Solomon's Seal (May)</td>
<td>Polygonatum biflorum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Wood hyacinth (May)</td>
<td>Scilla campanulata,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Giant snowflake (May)</td>
<td>Leucojum aestivum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Lily of the Valley</td>
<td>Convallaria majalis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>American Elm</td>
<td>Ulmus americana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Black Oak</td>
<td>Quercus velutina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>White Pine</td>
<td>Pinus strobus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>American Elm</td>
<td>Ulmus americana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R&amp;L</td>
<td>Wild Sarsaparilla</td>
<td>Aralia nudicaulis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R&amp;L</td>
<td>Sweet Pepperbush (Summersweet)</td>
<td>Clethra alnifolia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
R&L  Sweet Pepperbush  Clethra alnifolia
(Summersweet)
R&L  Alder Buckthorn  Rhamnus frangula
L    Red Pine (20’ ft. off trail)  Pinus resinosa
L    White Pine  Pinus strobus
R    Black Oak  Quercus velutina
R&L  Interrupted Fern  Osmunda claytoniana
L    White Oak  Quercus alba
R    Mountain Laurel  Kalmia latifolia
R    Native Pachysandra  Pachysandra procumbens
R    Trout lily  Erythronium americanum

Crossroads

L    Canadian Hemlock (copse)  Tsuga canadensis
    Cinnamon Fern  Osmunda cinnamomea
R    Red Maple (2 trunk),  Acer rubrum, Pinus
    Pitch Pine (1 trunk)  rigida
R    Hay-scented Fern  Dennstaedtia punctilobula
L    Red Maple (3 trunks)  Acer rubrum
R    Pitch Pine  Pinus rigida
R    Drooping Leucothoe  Leucothoe fontanesiana
R    Iris - yellow flag  Iris pseudacorus

Cross Bridge Over
Hammond Brook, Bellow Spillway

R    Highbush Blueberry  Vaccinium corymbosum
R    Broadleaf Spirea  Spiraea latifolia
L    Rosebay Rhododendron  Rhododendron maximum
R    Red Maple  Acer rubrum
R    Pink Shell Azalea  Rhododendron vaseyi
R    Yellowroot  Xanthoriza simplicissima
### R
- Sweet pepperbush
- Northern Red Oak
- Highbush Blueberry
- Red Maple
- American Chestnut (shoots)
- Black Oak (on corner of path)
- White Oak
- Sourwood
- Common Witch-hazel (multi-stemmed)
- Galax
- Catawba Rhododendron
- Black Oak
- Drooping Leucothoe
- Hay-scented Fern
- Climbing Hydrangea
- Deadly Nightshade
- Common Polypody (rock ledge)

### L
- Galax aphylla
- Rhododendron catawbiense
- Quercus velutina
- Leucothoe fontanesiana
- Demissa Pennata punctilobula
- Hydrangea anomala (petiolaris)
- Solanum dulcamara
- Polypodium vulgare

### Turn Left From Rock Ledge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>R</th>
<th>Grove of Hemlocks</th>
<th>Tsuga canadensis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Amur Cork Tree (small 4” cal.)</td>
<td>Phellodendron amurense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Red maple (edge of pond)</td>
<td>Acer rubrum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R&amp;L</td>
<td>Bracken Ferns with Whorled loosestrife</td>
<td>Pteridium aquilinum with Lysimachia quadrifolia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>American Elm (poor)</td>
<td>Ulmus americana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Red Maple</td>
<td>Acer rubrum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Spice bush</td>
<td>Lindera benzoin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>River Birch</td>
<td>Betula nigra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>American Beech</td>
<td>Fagus Grandiflora</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Mountain Pieris</td>
<td>Pieris floribunda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R &amp; L</td>
<td>Solomon's Seal (May)</td>
<td>Polygonatum biflorum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Mayapple (May)</td>
<td>Podophyllum peltatum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Double trunk Hemlock</td>
<td>Tsuga canadensis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Wood hyacinth</td>
<td>Scilla campanulata (May)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Iris cristata</td>
<td>Iris cristata (May)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Cinnamon Fern</td>
<td>Osmunda cinnamomea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Intermittent Fern</td>
<td>Osmunda claytoniana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Royal Fern</td>
<td>Osmunda regalis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Lady Fern (beside brook)</td>
<td>Athyrium felixfemina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Winged Euonymus</td>
<td>Euonymus alatus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Japanese Barberry</td>
<td>Berberis thunbergii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Carolina Rhododendron</td>
<td>Rhododendron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>carolinianum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| R    | American Beech, small                               | Fagus americana      |
| L    | River Birch (young, on edge of stream)              | Betula nigra         |
| L    | Button Bush                                         |                      |
| R    | Spice-Bush                                          |                      |
| L    | Red Osier Dogwood                                   |                      |
| L    | Skunk Cabbage                                       |                      |
| L    | Sawara False Cypress, small                         |                      |
| L    | Drooping Leucothoe                                  |                      |
| L    | Yellowroot                                          |                      |
| L    | American Chestnut (sapling)                         |                      |
| L    | Black Oak (on bank)                                 |                      |
| R    | Black Tupelo                                        |                      |
| R    | Royal Fern                                          |                      |
| L    | Elderberry                                          |                      |
| R    | Star Flowers                                        |                      |
| L    | White Birch                                         |                      |
| R    | White Oak - near T-track, Ig                        |                      |
| L    | White Fir                                           |                      |

Cross Over Two Bridges and Head back Down Other Side of Canal

| R    | Douglas Fir (over rail fence)                       | Pseudotsuga menziesii |
| R    | Rhododendron                                        | Rhododendron maximum  |
R  Upright Japanese Yew  Taxus cuspidata ‘capitata’
R  White Fir  Abies concolor
R  Spice-Bush  Lindera benzoin
R  Royal Ferns  Osmunda regalis
R  Red Maple  Acer rubrum
R  Tulip tree, small  Liriodendron tulipifera
R  Canadian Hemlocks,  Tsuga canadensis
L&R  Yellowroot  Xanthorrhiza simplicissima
R  Tulip Tree (behind Crabapple)  Liriodendron tulipifera
R  American Beech (40’ fr path)  Fagus americana
R  Native holly  Ilex opaca
R  Flowering Crabapple,  Malus sp.
L  Smooth Alder Clump  Alnus serrulata
R&L  Spice-Bush  Lindera benzoin

Path Up to East Gate

L  Japanese Dogwood  Cornus kousa
L  Red Maple  Acer rubrum
R  Carolina Silverbell  Halesia carolina
L  Planetree, Sycamore Maple  Acer pseudoplatanus
R  Sargeant Cherry, large  Prunus sargentii
L  White Ash  Fraxinus americana
R  Sawara False Cypress  Chamaecyparis pisifera
R  White fir  Abies concolor
R  American Beech  Fagus Americana, large
L  Sweet Gum  Liquidambar styraciflua
L  Cork Tree  Phellodendron amurense
L  Plane tree, old  Acer pseudoplatanus
Turn Left Down Small Path
By Brook Onto the Peninsula

L  Fox Grapevine
L  *Solomon's Seal (May)*
R  Sourwood
R  Common Sassafras
L&R Mountain Laurel
L  Flame Azalea
L  Wilson Rhododendron (sm leaf) Rhododendron laetevirens
L  Bald Cypress
R  Fragrant Winterhazel
L  Black Birch
L  Drooping Leucothoe
R  Mountain laurel
L  Torch Azalea (near water)
L  Tartarian Honeysuckle

Back To Main Trail - Turn Left Up Towards Plank Bridge

L  European Barberry
L  Drooping leucothoe
L  Red Osier Dogwood
L  Meadowsweet Spiraea
L  Sugar Maple
L  Japanese Dogwood
L  Red Maple

L  Vitis labrusca
L  *Polygonatum biflorum*
R  Oxydendrum arboreum
R  Sassafras albidum
L  Kalmia latifolia
R  Rhododendron calendulaceum
L  Laetevirens
R  Taxodium distichum
L  Corylopsis glabrescens
R  Betula lenta
L  Leucothoe fontanesiana
R  Kalmia latifolia
L  Rhododendron obtusum var. Kaempferi
L  Lonicera tartarica

L  Berberis vulgaris
L  Leucothoe fontanesiana
L  Cornus sericea
L  Spiraea tomentosa
L  Acer saccharum
L  Cornus kousa
L  Acer rubrum
Cross Over Plank Bridge Into Rock Garden

L  Tiarella
R  Winged Euonymous
R  Snowberry
R  Amur Honeysuckle
R  Flame Azalea
L&R Celandine Poppy

L  Katsura
R  May apple
R  Lily of the Valley
R  Solomon's Seal
R  Scilla
R  Japanese Spurge
L  Flowering Dogwood
L  Flame Azalea

L  Sweet Gum
L  Catawba Rhododendron
R  Erythronium
R  Sweetbay Magnolia
L  Japanese 'Fullmoon' Maple
R  American Barrenwort
L  Catawba Rhododendron
R  Flowering Crabapple
L  Climbing Hydrangea
R  Mountain Pieris
R  Sycamore Maple

Cercidiphyllum japonicum
Podophyllum peltatum
Convallaria majalis
Polygonatum
Scilla peruviana
Packysandra terminalis
Cornus florida
Rhododendron calendulaceum
Liquidambar styraciflua
Rhododendron catawbiense
Erythronium
Magnolia virginiana
Acer japonicum
Vancavara
Rhododendron catawbiense
Malus
Hydrangea anomola
petiolaris
Pieris floribunda
Acer pseudoplatanus
At Crossroad, continue Straight (small paths to left & right)

R  Sourwood                      Oxydendrum arboreum
R  Red Maple                    Acer rubrum
R  Drooping Leucothoe          Leucothoe fantanesiana
R  Christmas Fern             Polystichum acrostichoides
L  Spreading Japanese Yew      Taxus cuspidata expansa
L  Mountain Laurel             Kalmia latifolia
R  Carolina Silverbell         Halesia Carolina
R  Dwarf Alberta Spruce (in Yew) Picea glauca 'Conica'
L  Wood anemone (May)          Anemone sylvestris
L  Upright Japanese Yew        Taxus cuspidata var.
R  Spreading English Yew       Taxus baccata sp.

Keep Straight (path to left)

R  Pitch Pine                  Pinus rigida
R  Ghent Azalea                Rhododendron x Gandavense
L  Sourwood (behind Yew)       Oxydendrum arboreum
L  Spreading English Yew       Taxus baccata sp.
R  Mountain Laurel            Kalmia latifolia
R  Norway Spruce var.          Picea abies var.
L  Carolina Rhododendron      Rhododendron Carolinian
R  Norway Spruce               Picea abies

Join Main Trail Along Bank, Turn Right

L  Highbush Blueberry         Vaccinium corymbosum
R  Slender Hinoki False Cypress Chamaecyparis obtusa
  'Gracilis'
L  Mountain laurel             Kalmia latifolia
R  Huss Twiggy Hemlock         Tsuga canadensis
  'Hussii'
R  Globe American Arborvitae   Thuja occidentalis
  'Globosa'
Keep Straight, (small path to right)

| R  | Moss Sawara False Cypress | Chamaecyparis pisifera ‘Squarrosa Nana’ |
| R  | Rock Garden plants        |                                          |

Turn Right On Small Path Before Stone Bench & Ledge

| R  | Sawara False Cypress      | Chamaecyparis pisifera ‘Squarrosa Intermedia’ |
| R&L| Epimedium                 | Epimedium                                    |
| R  | Slender Hinoki False Cypress | Chamaecyparis obtusa ‘Gracilis’             |
| L&R| Japanese Yew              | Taxus cuspidata                              |

Return To Main Path At Stone Bench

| R  | Umbrella Pine (top of ledge) | Sciadopitys verticillata |
| R  | Mountain Pieris             | Pieris floribunda          |
| R  | Catawba Rhododendron       | Rhododendron               |
| R  | Flowering Dogwood          | Cornus Florida              |
| L  | Torch Azalea               | Rhododendron obtusum var. Kaempferi |
| L  | Sawara False Cypress       | Chamaecyparis pisifera     |
| R  | Chinese Neillia            | Neillia sinensis           |

Move To Center Of Rock Garden With Back Toward Pond And Facing Toward Large Black Oak Encircled By Stone Bench

- **Black Oak** (center)
  - Boston Ivy (climbing Oak)
- **Judas Tree**
  - Upright Japanese Yew Hybrid
- **Enkianthus**
| L  | Convexleaf Japanese Holly | Ilex crenata ‘convexa’ |
| R  | Royal Azalea              | Rhododendron            |
| R  | Golden Sawara False Cypress | Chamaecyparis ‘pisifera’ ‘Aurea’ |
| R  | Spreading English Yew     | Taxus baccata ‘rependens’ |
| R  | Dwarf Japanese Yew        | Taxus cuspidata ‘nana’ |
| R  | Dwarf Alberta Spruce (in yew) | Picea glauca ‘conica’ |
| L  | Creeping Cotoneaster      | Cotoneaster adpressus   |
| L  | Rockspray                 | Cotoneaster Horizontalis |
| L  | Carolina Rhododrons       | Rhododendron carolinianum |
| L  | Alberta Spruce (left of Rho.s) | Picea glauca ‘conica’ |
| L  | Andorra Juniper           | Juniperus horizontalis  |
| L  | Alpine Lady’s Mantle      | ‘plumosa’               |
| R  | Moss Sawara False Cypress | Chamaecyparis pisifera ‘squarrosa nana’ |
| L  | Common Wintercreeper      | Euonymous Fortunii, var.adicans |
| R  | Red Osier Dogwood         | Cornus sericea          |
CLIMBING HYDRANGEA
Hydrangea anomala (petiolaris)
"a rare jewel in crown of vines"

- Unlimited ability to climb by rootlike holdfasts.
- Stems brown with peeling, exfoliating shaggy bark.
- Flowers white, late June, fragrant.
- Specimen here on Puddingstone (Roxbury Conglomerate).
- Native of China and Japan, introduced 1865.
COMMON WITCHHAZEL
Hamamelis virginiana

- large shrub or small tree with crooked, spreading branches.
- Yellow fragrant straplike flowers in late fall.
- Extract witchhazel distilled from bark of young stems & roots.
- American Indians used extract for sore eyes, tumors & Inflammations.

Print courtesy of the Arnold Arboretum, C.E. Faxon, illustrator
MOUNTAIN LAUREL
Kalmia latifolia

Print courtesy of the Arnold Arboretum, C.E. Faxon, illustrator

- Evergreen shrub, 7 – 15 feet.
- Leaves are glossy, deep green, oblong and pointed.
- Flowers in May - June.
- Berries are poisonous!
- Native to Eastern North America.
TULIP TREE  
Liriodendron tulipfera

- An imposing tree, sometimes reaching 200 feet.
- Also called Tulip Magnolia, Yellow or Tulip Poplar.
- Wood is easily worked and used for furniture.
- Blossom is yellow, resembling tulip.
- George Washington planted it at Mount Vernon.
- Native to Eastern United States.
SOURWOOD
Oxydendrun arboreum

Print courtesy of the Arnold Arboretum, C.E. Faxon, illustrator

- Also called Sorrel Tree or Lily of the Valley Tree.
- Leaves and twigs have sour taste, source of black dye
- Bears small, bell-shaped white flowers in summer.
- Autumn foliage turns brilliant scarlet.
- Native to Eastern North America.
UMBRELLA PINE
Sciadopitys verticillata

- Conifer, can reach 60 to 90 feet tall.
- Rate of growth extremely slow, up to 6 in. a year.
- Needles radiate around stem, creating 'umbrella'.
- Native to Japan, introduced 1861.