Reading Plant Labels

The Arboretum uses two types of labels—display labels and accession labels. Display labels are for the public to learn a little more about the tree. Only certain trees of particular interest have display labels staked into the ground. State Champion trees’ display labels have a QR code that will take you to a web page providing more information about the tree species. A tree is deemed a State Champion by the Colorado Tree Coalition if it is the largest of its species in the state of Colorado.

Accession labels are for curatorial and research purposes. All trees in the arboretum have accession labels attached to a limb or trunk.

Chester M Alter Arboretum

The University of Denver’s Chester M Alter Arboretum was created in 1999 under the leadership of then-Chancellor Daniel L. Ritchie to honor the legacy of the institution’s 12th chancellor. The Arboretum is home to about 2,239 trees representing more than 250 species and varieties, as well as dozens of shrub species that provide the landscape with year-round interest. In addition to some historically significant mature trees, the Arboretum includes eight state champions, the largest specimens of a particular species growing in Colorado.

Mission

The Arboretum exists to curate and maintain a recognized collection of woody plants that enhances the campus environment, provide research and education opportunities and promote sustainability. The mission is to provide structure and methods to conserve, manage, and enhance the historic urban forest on the University of Denver’s campus. Sound and effective land stewardship practices shall be demonstrated through curation and enhancement of the campus biodiversity.

Support the Arboretum

The Arboretum is open year-round to the public and is sustained by the generosity of its alumni and friends. Now, more than ever, donations play a critical role in keeping the arboretum flourishing. Make a difference with an online donation to sustain our campus gem.

For more information on the arboretum, donations, and tours visit us at www.du.edu/arboretum or call (303) 871-2200