Over a number of years, the Arboretum Lawn will be transformed by the introduction of a series of sweeping beds filled with a mass of trees, shrubs and perennials complimentary to the existing planting. Beginning in autumn 2018 and spring 2019, seven multi-stemmed red filbert trees (Corylus avellana ‘Zellernus’) and three purple leaved cherry trees (Prunus ‘Royal Burgundy’) will be planted where their beautiful red and purple foliage will complement the colour scheme of the newly underplanted beds.

The red spindle (Euonymus europaeus ‘Red Cascade’) will continue the theme of dark foliage plants growing to up to five meters tall and turning bright red before leaf fall in autumn. Two will be planted in autumn 2018 and spring 2019 and when mature will produce brilliantly coloured pink and orange seedpods which are just as spectacular as the fiery foliage display.

Two multi-stemmed Tibetan cherry trees (Prunus serrula) will also be planted on the Arboretum Lawn in autumn 2018 and spring 2019 where they will preside over a sunnier, more open section of this exciting new development. A native of Western China, the Tibetan cherry tree flowers in April but it is for its stunning mahogany coloured peeling bark that these trees are really grown. Especially beautiful in winter, their intensely coloured bark only gets better with age.

Our flowering dogwood (Cornus ‘Norman Hadden’) has been planted between the Herb Circle and Geographical Beds. Here it gets all the sun it requires to produce a stunning summer display of creamy-white bracts followed by brilliant strawberry like fruits. Similarly spectacular is the nearby chusan palm (Trachycarpus fortunei). First planted in the 1960s it now stands at over 6m tall in the Chinese section of the Geographical Beds.

The wellingtonia (Sequoiadendron giganteum) is one of the great botanical wonders of the world. A record breaker; the wellingtonia is the largest living thing on the planet. It can grow to a whopping 95 metres in height, just a few metres shorter than the University clock tower, ‘Old Joe’, which is 99 metres from base to tip. Our wellingtonia was planted in the Geographical Beds in 1985. It has quickly risen to 15 metres in height and will soon be the tallest tree in the garden.

Please note all of our tree dedications are offered for a ten year term.