



# Giant Sequoia

*Sequoiadendron giganteum*

Cypress Family (Cupressaceae)

Zones: 6-10

Full Sun

Moderate Water

Location: Childrens' Garden, Conifer Garden, Four Seasons

Walk in the sequoia woods at any time of year and you will say they are the most beautiful and majestic on earth. Beautiful and impressive contrasts meet you everywhere, the colors of tree and flower, rock and sky, light and shade, strength and frailty, endurance and evanescence -- John Muir (1911).

A native of California, at elevations of 4500 to 8000 feet above sea level, this tree grows in scattered groves. It is the world's most massive tree! The most impressive specimen is "General Sherman", which is about 2,500 years old, 277 feet tall with a trunk diameter of 33 feet at the base. It can be viewed in Sequoia National Park in the western Sierra Nevada Mountains of California.

One of the spectacular aspects of the tree is its bark, which is dark brown to red-brown in color. The 12 inch thick bark protects the tree from wildfires. In wildfires, the outer bark burns but the fire usually moves on before the heart of the tree is damaged. The bark is also somewhat soft, fluted, furrowed and strongly ridged.

The Giant Sequoia grows best in deep, well-drained, moist, slightly acidic soil and needs supplemental water during the dry season. While it won't reach 275 feet in Utah, it is a fast growing tree and can reach 30 to 40 feet.

The leaf color of the Giant Sequoia is gray-green becoming darker and shiny with age. When cut crosswise, the leaves are an interesting triangle shape. Although the tree crown broadens with age, young trees are conical with a straight trunk.

This is a tree that can be used in large areas and would make a beautiful background or focal point.

The largest specimen on the University of Utah Campus is located west side of President's Circle. At Red Butte Garden, we have a couple specimens located along the north perimeter fence and cultivars in various other locations.