This tree tour is called "Southeast Benson Garden." It starts at the southeast corner of the Fleischmann Planetarium (to get there, go on the driveway for the Parking Services Building toward Lawlor Events Center, follow on the wide gravel path around the Planetarium until you get to the top of the steps near the Stadium Parking Garage). It goes to the area left of the wide gravel path and ends about 30 feet from the parking garage entrance and 30 feet from Lawlor.

Benson Gardens was named for Dorothy Benson, who donated Benson Garden in 1946. Since then, there have been a number of landscaping projects here. This tour features a number of uncommonly-planted tree species not seen on other Tree Tours. Much of it is "in the woods," which is unusual for UNR trees.

OK, let's get started.
At number 1 on the map is a tree with roundish two-inch leaves. This is Smoketree (scientific name *Cotinus coggygria*), native to central Europe, China, and the Himalayas. The leaves are roundish on this treeshrub (a plant that could have either a tree or shrub form). It is called "Smoketree" because the flower heads look like puffs of smoke and last on the tree for a couple of months. Nevada State Champion is on the "In the Medical Atria" Tree Tour.

Between the second and third steps, at number 2 on the map, is a large conifer with three trunks and drooping branches. This is Norway Spruce (scientific name *Picea abies*), native to central and northern Europe. Its branches tend to droop on each side of the limb, and the limbs tend to droop from the trunk.

Near the bottom of the stairs is a "semi-path" to the left, which heads toward a medium conifer about 40 feet away. Left of the path, at number 3, is a conifer with a red-brown trunk and leaves which are vertical sprays. This is Incense Cedar (scientific name *Calocedrus decurrens*). This Sierra Nevada native is not really a Cedar, and that is a good example of why I am giving scientific names on my tree tours. It has fan-like branchlets and red-brown fibrous and deeply-furrowed bark. Its cones are very unusual; they have a central scale with two other scales curving away from it.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tree No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Shore Pine bark, needles and cone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ruby Lace Honeylocust</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sunburst Honeylocust</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please do me a favor and press on the bark. You will notice that it doesn't "give." You’ll see why I asked a few trees from now.

The "semi-path" leads to a conifer at number 4. This is **Shore Pine** (scientific name *Pinus contorta var. contorta*), native to the Pacific coast from Washington State to Alaska. It is either a subspecies or variety (depending on who you talk to) of **Lodgepole Pine**. It has a contorted form, and its one-inch cones may not open for years but yet stay on the branch.

About 20 feet to its left at number 5 is a tree with ruby-red- to burgundy-colored compound leaves. This is **Ruby Lace Honeylocust** (scientific name *Gleditsia triacanthos 'Ruby Lace' *), a seldom-planted cultivar of the central North American native **Thornless Honeylocust**. This tree is planted for its leaf color, but is seldom planted. Its leaves come out burgundy to ruby color, but after a while fade to mud-brown; fortunately, the new leaves that come out during the growing season are colorful.

Back on the wide gravel path, look to the left to another Honeylocust cultivar with colorful leaves at number 6, **Sunburst Honeylocust** (scientific name *Gleditsia triacanthos 'Sunburst' *). The
leaves of this cultivar are bright yellow fading to green, but once again the new leaves are colorful. This tree has bright yellow Fall color.

Japanese or Sawleaf Zelkova

Where the path meets the wide gravel path from the parking lot, go left to a small vase-shaped tree with round-toothed leaves at number 7. This is Japanese (or Sawleaf) Zelkova (scientific name Zelkova serrata), native to China, Korea, Japan, and Manchuria. This tree was introduced for sale around 1862. It is a close relative of the Elms, but doesn’t have their pest problems. It has red-orange or purple color in good Fall seasons.
8 Balkan Pine

About 15 feet past it is a light green conifer with four-inch needles in bundles of five at number 8. This tree is difficult to identify. It doesn't fit the description of any of the more common White Pines. It has light green needles and 5-inch cones. I'm identifying this as **Balkan Pine** (scientific name *Pinus peuce*). It is native to the Balkan Peninsula (the former Yugoslavia).

9 Bigtooth Maple

Next to it, at number 9, are three Maples. In the middle and farther from the wide gravel path is **Bigtooth Maple** (scientific name *Acer grandidentatum*), a native of interior western North America. It grows more slowly than other Maples, and reaches only small or medium size. Like its close relative the Sugar Maple, it has good Fall color (golden yellow to red). Its fruits are light brown samaras (winged seeds).

9 Amur Maple

On each side is an **Amur Maple** (scientific name *Acer ginnala*) a native of China and Japan. It has three-inch three-lobed leaves. It is a very tough tree once established, and stays less than 25 feet tall. Perhaps its best feature is its abundant red samaras (winged seedpods) which flood the tree in Summer. It has red, orange and yellow Fall color in the best years.
Head toward Lawlor on the wide gravel path. Next to the metal fence at number 10 are four Crabapples (scientific name *Malus sp*.). There are many cultivars of this tree, and I don't know which one they are. Crabapples are quite popular because of their abundant flowers in Spring. Most of the trees become multi-trunked at three or four feet above ground.

Continue down this path to the street between the garden and Lawlor. Just before the sidewalk is a columnar tree at number 11. This is Columnar Freeman Maple (scientific name *Acer x freemanii*). This hybrid of Red Maple and Silver Maple has orange-red Fall color and is pest-resistant; for these reasons, it is more popularly planted than either parent. This is one of a number of columnar cultivars.

Cross the street, then head left on the sidewalk. The large conical conifer next to Lawlor at number 12 is Giant Sequoia (scientific name *Sequoiadendron giganteum*), native to the west slope of the Sierra Nevada. Press the trunk, which looks similar to that of mature Incense Cedars. Surprise! This tree's bark is spongy. The thickness of the trunk in mature trees makes it fire-retardant, and the large amount of tannin in the tree makes it insect-resistant; these are two of the reasons that Giant Sequoias may live a couple thousand years.
Head toward the parking garage entrance. Past some Columnar Freeman Maples and Crabapples is a small conifer with short needles at number 13. This is Serbian Spruce (scientific name *Picea omorika*), native to Serbia and Bosnia. It grows more slowly than other Spruces. The needles are soft and flat like those of Fir, rather than stiff, and all around the branch like those of other Spruces. This tree's delicate form makes it desirable in some landscapes.

Between the turnaround next to the garage entrance and the lowest retaining wall at number 14 are some trees with silver-gray sprays for leaves. These are Arizona Cypress (scientific name *Cupressus arizonica*). This native of the southern parts of New Mexico, Arizona and California, as well as Northern Mexico, might be mistaken for a silver-gray Juniper, but its cones are larger and have grooves in them.

This concludes the "Southeast Benson Garden" Tree Tour.