

Untraced weeping broadleaf cultivars -An overview-

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Already more than a thousand years ago, weeping Willows enchanted and inspired the Chinese and when the first weeping Willows arrived in Europe at the end of the 18th century, they started a real craze and the search was on for more weeping cultivars. Since then about 550 weeping trees and shrubs have been named in about 75 genera. Many historic cultivars remain available in the trade but others are now restricted to Botanic gardens and private collections. Over the past 20 years there has however been a trend in botanic gardens to concentrate on the cultivation of plant material from wild sources and rare cultivars are no longer propagated. When old trees die, they may often be the last of their strain. While national collections have been set up for many cultivated plant genera, weeping cultivars represent a particularly vulnerable group as they belong to more than 75 genera, many of which are not represented in national collections. The space needed to grow these trees is also substantial, limiting the number of potential collection holders. Those gardens that focus on tree genera often limit themselves to species with a very limited attention to finding every last cultivar as many of the herbaceous collection holders do. With Elms there has been a particular problem as most European and American species have been decimated by Dutch Elm Disease (DED). Many of the surviving cultivars are represented by a single tree. This article hopes to focus attention on these dwindling recourses and hoping to rediscover some of the cultivars listed below.

Acer campestre 'Puncticulatum'

syn. *A. campestre* f. *puncticulatum* Schwer. (1893). *A. campestre* var. *pendulum-foliis-variegatis* G.Nicholson (1902), *A. campestre* var. *pendulum-variegatum*, *A. campestre pendulum pulverulentum*.

Originally described by Schwerin in 1893 as a strong weeping form with white speckled leaves. This cultivar was cultivated at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew from around 1902 till at least 1925. No other information since.

Acer negundo 'Pendulum'

syn. *A. negundo pendulum* Schwer. (1896)

Described by Schwerin (Germany) in 1896. When top grafted the tree produces perpendicular branches, similar to a weeping Ash. No further information.

Acer pseudoplatanus 'Pendulum'

syn. *A. pseudoplatanus* var. *pendulum* W.H.Baxter (1850).

This weeping form was sold by Knight & Perry exotic nursery, Kings Road, Chelsea before 1850 when it was listed in the supplement to Loudon's Hortus Britannicus (p. 481). No other information is known.

Aesculus Carnea Group 'Pendula'

syn. *A. × carnea* var. *pendula* A.Henry (1907).

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The cultivar was in cultivation in Kew Gardens around 1902. The Kew copy of the 1902 edition of the Hand-list of Trees and Shrubs has a note in pencil reading "not pendulous yet". When specimens from the Carnea Group become older the branches become somewhat pendulous as can be seen from the old specimen next to Kew Palace. It is probable that material from such a tree was propagated and given the name "var. pendula". A similar case can be seen with the name *A. hippocastanum* 'Laciniata Pendula' which was given to an old specimen with weeping branches. However when grafted these become upright once again. The Kew specimen of 'Laciniata' dating from around 1902 clearly shows those pendulous old branches. It is however not a weeping cultivar as the tips of the shoots grow upright. See also Bean (1914): 168.

Aesculus hippocastanum 'Pendula'

syn. *A. hippocastanum* var. *pendula* Puvill. (1921).

This name was first mentioned in 1877 by Lavallée from le Domaine de Segrez. Puvilland (1921) published a photograph from a tree planted in 1804 in Die, France. It shows a large upright tree with drooping branches. It is said to be weeping from a young age.

Amorpha fruticosa 'Pendula'

syn. *A. pendula* Carrière (1868).

This prostrate or arching shrub was first described from France in 1868. It also appeared independantly in wild populations of Florida. The last recorded plant we know of died in Rostock in 2005. It is possibly still in cultivation in the U.S.A. but no definite records could be found.

Aspidosperma quebracho-blanco 'Pendula'

syn. *A. quebracho-blanco* var. *pendula* Speg. (1910).

This weeping form was described by Spegazzini from Santiago del Estero, Argentina in 1910. The branchlets are naturally somewhat pendulous. Doubtfully distinct from the wild type.

Berberis darwinii 'Pendula'

syn. *B. darwinii* var. *pendula* G.Nicholson (1925).

This cultivar was cultivated at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in 1925. There is a herbarium specimen present at Kew which shows an arching branch. Older plants tend to have arching branches and it is doubtfully distinct.

There has been some confusion with *B. darwinii* var. *pendula* Ahrendt (1949), this was raised by T. Smith in 1932 and is now correctly known as *B. Stenophylla* Group 'Pendula' but this is definitely a different cultivar.

Betula populifolia 'Pendula'

syn. *B. populifolia* var. *pendula* Loudon (1838).

Originally listed as *B. pendula* in Loddiges' Catalogue of 1836. Described as having drooping branches like *B. pendula*. Drooping trees can be found within the range of variation and this clone was probably not distinct from those.

Betula pubescens 'Pendula'

Listed by Beissner, Schelle & Zabel (1903). No further information.

Betula pubescens 'Pendula Nana'

Listed by Beissner, Schelle & Zabel (1903) as originally offered by the French nursery SIMON LOUIS frères. No further information could be found.

Caragana frutex 'Pendula'

Syn: *C. frutescens* var. *pendula* G.Nicholson (1894).

This cultivar was cultivated at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew from around 1894 till at least 1925. There are more recent records from the Polar-Alpine Botanical Garden in Kirovsk and the Komarov Botanical Institute (Rozlin, Bot. Zhurn. 44: 467. 1959) but none of those seem to survive.

Castanea mollissima 'Pendula'

syn. *C. mollissima* var. *pendula* X.Y.Zhou & Z.D.Zhou (1982).

This weeping form was described in 1982 from a tree observed in 1975 on Hua Qiao Farm, in Jinping village of Xuajiang County in Jiangxi Province. We have not yet been able to establish if there are any surviving trees. None seem to be present in botanic gardens (BGCI, 2009).

Coffea arabica 'Pendula'

syn. *C. arabica* var. *pendula* Cramer (1913).

Described by Cramer (1913) as a mutation that occurred occasionally on Jawa, Indonesia. He mentioned specimens from Kalisat and a particular plant from Berek, south-east Jawa that was creeping along the ground.

Cotinus coggygria 'Pendulus'

syn. *Rhus cotinus pendula* Burv. (1885).

This weeping form originated in Belgium before 1885. It seems to have been widely cultivated in Europe and the U.S.A. but now probably lost. (Hatch, 2005).

Crataegus monogyna 'Crispa Pendula'

syn. *C. oxyacantha* subsp. *monogyna* var. *crispa-pendula* G.Nicholson (1894), *C. monogyne* 'Pendula Crispa'.

This cultivar was cultivated at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew from around 1880 till at least 1925. There is a herbarium specimen present at Kew on which is written "Van Houtte" which may indicate the possible origin.

Crataegus monogyna 'Pendula Variegata'

syn. *C. oxyacantha* subsp. *monogyna* var. *pendula-variegata* G.Nicholson (1902)

This cultivar was cultivated at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew from around 1902 till at least 1950. There is a herbarium specimen present at Kew collected in May 1950.

Crataegus monogyna 'Pendula Xanthoclada'

Listed by Beissner, Schelle & Zabel (1903) as having yellow branchlets. No further information.

Fagus sylvatica 'Freya'

This sport originated in Boomkwekerij M.M. Bömer in 1990 on a specimen of *Fagus sylvatica* 'Purle Fountain'. The only plant was eaten by a hare. A photograph is published in Dönig (1994).

Fraxinus angustifolia 'Pendula Vera'

syn. *F. lentiscifolia* f. *pendula-vera*

Listed by Beissner, Schelle & Zabel (1903) under *F. lentiscifolia*. No further information.

Fraxinus excelsior 'Kincairniae'

syn. *F. excelsior* var. *kincairniae* Loudon (1838).

The original specimen grew on the estate of Mungo Murray esq. in Kincairney, in the parish of Caputh, near Dunkels, Perthshire, Scotland. (see Gard. Mag. 10: 384. 1833). It was identified by alternatively pendulous and rigidly upright branches. The original tree was alive at least between 1833 and 1880 and propagated in Perth nurseries.

Fraxinus excelsior 'Pendulifolia Purpurea'

This weeping form arose in France around 1864. It differs in its young purple growth. No other information is known.

Fraxinus excelsior 'Tortuosa Pendula'

syn. *F. excelsior* f. *tortuosa-pendula* Dippel (1889).

This cultivar originated at Simon Louis frères, Mets before 1872. No other information is known.

Fraxinus excelsior 'Verrucosa Pendula'

syn. *F. excelsior* var. *verrucosa-pendula* Loudon (1838).

This weeping form arose in England around 1800 and was grown in the RHS Gardens at Chiswick. The weeping branches are warty or corky.

Gleditsia sinensis 'Pendula'

syn. *G. sinensis* var. *pendula* G. Nicholson (1902).

This cultivar was cultivated at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew from around 1902 till at least 1925. Annotations in the Kew copy of the 1902 Hand-list of trees and shrubs suggest that the Kew plant came from Missouri Botanic Gardens, St. Louis. No other information is known.

Ligustrum vulgare 'Pendulum'

syn. *L. vulgare pendulum* Carrière (1856).

This sport with long drooping branches first appeared in Belgium in 1854. A herbarium specimen is present at the Kew herbarium, where it was cultivated until at least 1925. No specimens seem to be surviving today.

Prunus domestica 'Pendula Variegata'

syn. *P. domestica* var. *pendula-variegata* Petz. & G. Kirchn. (1864), *P. insititia* 'Albo-variegata Pendula' Zabel (1903).

This cultivar was traced back to the nursery of J. Booth & Söhne near Flottbeck in Germany. It was described in 1864 from plants cultivated at the Muskau Arboretum, now Park Mużakowski w Łęknicy in Poland. No other information known.

Prunus mahaleb 'Bommii'

This cultivar was first described by Bean (1914) as more pendulous than 'Pendula'. It was cultivated at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew around 1925. No further information could be found.

Prunus virginiana 'Pendula'

syn. *P. virginiana* var. *pendula* Petz. & G.Kirchn. (1864).

This cultivar was traced back to the Royal gardens of Sans Souci near Vienna. It was described in 1864 from plants cultivated at the Muskau Arboretum. No other information is known.

Pyrus communis 'Pendula'

syn. *P. communis* var. *pendula* Petz. & G.Kirchn. (1864).

This cultivar was traced back to the nursery of J.Booth & Söhne near Flottbeck in Germany. It was described in 1864 from plants cultivated at the Muskau Arboretum. Around 1877. It was also cultivated at le Domaine de Segrez, France and at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew from around 1880 till at least 1925. It was described as a large tree with pendulous branches.

Quercus coccinea 'Pendula'

syn. *Q. coccinea* var. *pendula* Petz. & G.Kirchn. (1864).

Originally described in 1864 from the Muskau Arboretum. No other information is known. There is a very remote possibility that the tree survives in the grounds of the park which has layed untouched for many years. It has also been suggested that weeping trees have appeared independantly in the USA, but none could be located.

Quercus petraea 'Pendula'

syn. *Q. sessilis* var. *pendula* C.K.Schneid. (1904).

Originally described in 1877 Lavallée from le Domaine de Segrez, France.

Quercus pubescens 'Pendula'

syn. *Q. aegilops* var. *pendula* Neill in Loudon (1838).

First described by Neill as a variety of *Q. aegilops*. In 1864 mentioned from the Muskau Arboretum. Mentioned under different names in more publications. It is possibly misapplied to the widely grown *Q. pyrenaica* 'Pendula'.

Quercus robur 'Pendula Salicifolia'

syn. *Q. pedunculata* f. *pendula-salicifolia* Zabel (1903)

Listed in Beissner, Schelle & Zabel (1903). No further information

Quercus rubra 'Pendula'

syn. *Q. rubra* var. *pendula* de Vos (1867).

Described by de Vos in 1867 from Holland and also cultivated in Kew Gardens untill at least 1925.

Robinia pseudoacacia 'Ulriciana'

syn. *R. pseudoacacia* f. *pendula-ulriciana*' Beissner (1903)

This cultivar originated on the Pfaueninsel near Potsdam (Germany) before 1892. It was described as having slender branches and more weeping than the older cultivar 'Pendula'.

Salix reinii 'Pendula'

syn. *S. reinii* f. *pendula* Kimura (1961).

This cultivar was originally collected in the wild in Japan (Shizuoka Pref. Subashiriguchi: Mt. Fujisan) and may still survive there. The specimen cultivated at the Botanical Garden of Tohoku University, Sendai has however died.

Salix serissifolia 'Pendula'

syn: *S. dolichostyla* subsp. *serissifolia* f. *pendula* Okuhara ex T.Shimizu (1997).

This cultivar was originally collected in the wild in Japan (Nagano Pref.: Hata-machi, Oshide) and may still survive there. The specimen cultivated at the Botanical Garden of Tohoku University, Sendai has however died.

× *Sorbaronia hybrida* 'Pendula'

syn. *Pyrus* × *spuria* var. *pendula* Loudon (1838).

Described and illustrated (vol. 6: t. 187) by Loudon (1838). It was mentioned to be cultivated at the RHS gardens in Chiswick. No other information known.

Sorbus aucuparia 'Pendula Dawsonii'

syn. *S. aucuparia* var. *pendula-dawsonii* G.Nicholson (1902)

This cultivar was cultivated at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew from around 1902 till at least 1925. There is a herbarium specimen at Kew collected in the gardens in 1905. As no description could be found, it is not clear how it differs from the typical 'Pendula'.

Sorbus torminalis 'Pendula'

syn. *S. torminalis* var. *pendula* Priszter & Kárpáti (1953).

Described by Priszter & Kárpáti (1953) from a weeping specimen collected by Priszter on Kakukk-hegy (Cuckoo Mountain), north of Budapest. It is unknown if any survive.

Ulmus glabra 'Pendula Variegata'

syn. *U. montana* var. *pendula-variegata* Hartwig & Rümpler (1875).

First described by Hartwig & Rümpler in 1875 (Green, 1964). This cultivar was cultivated at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew from around 1896 till at least 1925. Described as similar to 'Horizontalis' with white-variegated leaves.

Ulmus minor 'Lombartsii'

syn. *U. suberosa* *pendula lombartsii* (1920)

This cultivar originated in the Lombarts Nurseries (Zundert, Netherlands) circa 1910 and was described as having pendulous branches with corky wings. It used to be grown in Duch gardens but none seem to survive today.

Ulmus × *hollandica* 'Hillieri'

syn: *U.* × *hillieri* Hillier (1928).

This cultivar arose as a chance seedling at Hillier's Pitt Corner nursery near Winchester in 1918. This miniature weeping tree was sold by the Hillier's nursery for a number of years. No specimens are known to survive although there is a real chance a specimen survives in a private garden as these shrubby Elms are much less prone to getting Dutch Elm Disease.

Ulmus × *hollandica* 'Smithii'

syn: *U.* 'Pendula', *U. glabra* var. *pendula* Loudon (1838).

This weeping form also known as the Downton Elm originated from Smith's Nursery, Worcester in 1810 and was described by Loudon (1838) as *U. glabra* var. *pendula*. Not to be confused with *U. montana* var. *pendula* Loudon (1838) which is a synonym of 'Horizontalis'. The tree has ascending branches with pendulous branchlets and leaves that are shiny and smooth above. Specimens were grown at Kew Gardens and the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Ireland before 1920.

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