



# Mission: Plant-Possible

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to find all of the different plant species below located around your Akron Zoo. Bring your completed scavenger hunt form to the office located in the Barnhardt Family Welcome Center and receive your passport stamp. Return each season to complete the next mission and fill your passport book to win a prize!

**\*plant location not necessarily in order**

1. The garden is not the only place plants can thrive. You can use houseplants to create a warm, inviting, and beautiful environment inside your home. Not only do they look great, they also release oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide. They act as a natural air purifier that filters out toxins in the air. In addition, studies have shown seeing natural greenery can help clear the mind of the stresses of daily life. The best part? They come in many different forms, colors, and shapes. Just make sure you choose the one that is safe for pets (if you have one)!

**Location: Barnhardt Family Welcome Center**

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2. This Ohio native is a medium size with evergreen shrub, prized with its abundance of red berries. Many animals find refuge under its leaves in the winter months and utilize its berries as a food source. You can also find these berries in winter displays and holiday wreaths which make for a colorful addition. During the winter months, this species can be seen in home landscaping while most other plants lose their leaves.

**Location: Legends of the Wild**

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3. This large evergreen tree is native to Ohio and has blueish green needles. Native Americans have used this species for both medical and cooking purposes. This plant can also be used in the landscape as a windbreak to shelter other plants from harmful winter winds. Historically, it has been used to build ship masts and in building materials that are still used today.

**Location: Legends of the Wild**

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4. This large shrub is native to Ohio and can reach a size of twenty feet tall and fifteen feet wide at maturity. It gives off a pleasant smell and is able to bloom at various times of the year including in late fall, late winter, and even in early spring. Besides the fragrance, the flowers are also a fun addition to any landscape, resembling yellow curly fries. Today, this species is used in many cosmetic lines for its medicinal properties.

**Location: Grizzly Ridge**

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5. This tree is native to Ohio and can grow to be about sixty feet tall and thirty-five feet wide. It is a relatively fast-growing tree capable of climbing two feet per year. It's paper-white, flakey bark adds quite a bit of decorative value to the landscape. In nature, this tree grows in stands, and typically, three saplings will be grown together as a multi-stemmed tree.

**Location: Wild Asia**

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6. HOMEOWNERS BEWARE! This evergreen bamboo requires extensive containment as this species spreads rapidly; its roots grow right through the asphalt! Native to southeastern China, this species has been used for landscapes but has since become problematic. It's been listed as an invasive species in many countries, including the USA.

**Location: Wild Asia**

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7. These plants are found all throughout the world. We even have native species living in our own backyards, such as the Purple Pitcher Plant and the Roundleaf Sundew. Although these plants come in all shapes, sizes, and colors, they obtain a unique adaptation to trap their nutrients. Unlike most plants, these species live in nutrient-deprived environments. It is for this reason that these plants evolved to trap their prey, dissolve them, and take their nutrients.

**Locations: Komodo Kingdom, Curious Creatures**

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8. This shrub is native to Ohio and is a vital food source for wildlife during the winter months. Its delightful bright red bark is striking against a snowy landscape, and is a wonderful addition to the garden. This plant will often create colonies by dropping down its stem and taking root, creating a whole new plant. If not maintained, it will spread from its original location. Native Americans used this plant's sap to tip their arrows with poison when hunting.

**Location: Komodo Kingdom Patio**

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9. This Ohio native is a large evergreen shrub with waxy blue berries that persist into the winter months. Many birds use its berries as a food source. In addition, Native Americans have used all parts of this plant for medical and cooking purposes, and its wax is used to make soaps and candles.

**Location: Grizzly Ridge**

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10. This large, slow-growing tree is native to Ohio and can reach seventy feet tall and thirty-five feet wide with a growth rate at less than a foot to two feet per year. Currently, its population is near threatened status, but it is considered one of the most adaptable evergreen trees. It can handle everything from shade to both dry and wet soils. In the home garden it can be used for

screening, groupings, and even foundation plantings. This tree makes an excellent shelter for wildlife during harsh winter months.

**Locations: Grizzly Ridge**

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11. This Ohio native evergreen tree is one of the fastest growing trees. It grows at a rate of three feet per year and can get as tall as sixty feet in height, and twelve to twenty feet in width. This means it has a small footprint and is an ideal solution for our screening needs. Typically grown in groups, it is easy to dial in your length of screening. Although this tree has little to offer other than its dull green foliage, it does add a background for more interesting plants. There's a lot to love about this evergreen including its low maintenance, resistance to insects and disease, adaptivity to adverse weather conditions, and it only requires 4 hours of direct sunlight to thrive. It's hard to ignore this evergreen's ironclad screening option in any landscape.

**Location: Africa**

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12. Talk about resilient! Due to its ability to sprout from buds under bark, this species can tolerate being sheared into topiaries and still look lush. It can even spout on old wood! If you're a fan of woodwind instruments, like the clarinet, you might recognize this species. Due to its slow growth, its hard wood is perfect for their construction. **Location: Gardens**

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13. This evergreen tree looks as though it was transcribed straight out of one of Dr. Seuss' books, with its long swooping branches and its dark green, almost gray color. It flourishes in cool, humid weather with above average rainfall. This tree maxes out at about twenty to thirty feet tall and eight to twelve feet wide. This tree is native to northern America and adds tremendous ornamental value to the home landscape with its massive size, iconic horizontal branches, and cascading weeping scales.

**Locations: Barn Owl (Gardens)**

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14. This ornamental tree can be found in the mountainous northeastern regions of China. Its distinctive bark comes in green, tan, and grey, giving it a unique camouflage appearance. **Location: Wild Asia**

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15. This large, slow-growing evergreen tree is native to central Japan and is famous for its lemon-scented wood. This is just one reason why its wood is often used in the construction of palaces, shires, temples, and traditional theaters. **Location: Gardens**

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