

# Florida Torreya

*Ex-situ Specimens of Torreya taxifolia*



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### **Interesting Facts**

-Torreya trees were brought to the World's Columbian Exhibition, in Chicago in 1893, and exhibited as one of the attractions of Florida.

-Torreya was used for lamp posts on the Capitol grounds in Tallahassee, FL and this was noted in 1884.

-A walking stick made of *Torreya taxifolia* wood (having an inlay of chacte-coc) is part of a collection of 1400 that were acquired by Rudolph Block. The collection was given to Yale University School of Forestry upon Block's death in 1940. Around 1960 the collection was given to U.S. Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, WI. This collection is now owned by the Smithsonian and hasn't been on public display since 1928. The collection is currently held in an offsite storage location.

-Common names have included: Florida Torreya, Torrey-Tree, Stinking Cedar, Tumion, Savin, Polecat Wood, Yew Leaved Torreya, Gopherwood, Florida Nutmeg, Fetid Yew, Chattahoochee Pine and Torrey's Yew.

-In 1890, Apalachicola locals were calling *Torreya taxifolia* by the common name of Torrey-Tree. The *Garden & Forest* article points out, all the visitors from far away coming to see the trees, were always talking about John Torrey. It also hints that the interest of the scientist sparked the locals own curiosity, and the tree was becoming something more than just indestructible fence post material. Two of the three counties had adopted this new common name.

### **Historic Locations**

H.W. Sargent listed *Torreya taxifolia* as surviving at several locations in his 1859 paper. The locations listed were: Elizabethtown, NJ, Dobb's Ferry, Yorkville, Flushing and Newport. The Yorkville location is probably Hogg & Son's Collection of Plants, which was a nursery that sold Torreya. The Flushing, NY

location is most likely the William R. Prince Nursery. The Elizabethtown, NJ location is likely the William Reid Nursery where *Torreya* was listed in their 1861 catalog under *Taxus* as Torrey's Yew. As of yet, trees in the other locations, listed by Sargent, have not been narrowed down. Likely they were planted on the estates of mid-1800s collectors or nurseries. A.W. Chapman mentioned Hardy Bryan Croom, who discovered *Torreya taxifolia* in 1833, planted multiple trees on the Tallahassee Capitol grounds and further noted Judge Charles H. DuPont planting trees at his home in Quincy, FL. There are bound to be more discoveries of historic locations for *Torreya* in old books, articles and private plant lists.

### **Historic Nurseries**

*This list is meant to bring awareness that T. taxifolia has been in cultivation a long time. There is also a possibility that specimens from these nurseries, or descended from these trees, could appear near any of these locations.*

**Hogg & Sons/Yorkville, NY**-1849 reference, about *T. taxifolia*, by A.J. Downing in the Horticulturist, that Mr. Thomas Hogg is “now propagating it considerably, and it will undoubtedly form one of the finest acquisitions to our limited list of fine hardy evergreens”. *Mr. Hogg's first plant came from Dr. Torrey who had received it from H.B. Croom. This tree was then planted in Central Park after it was propagated.*

**Kelvyn Garden/Dutch Bulbs Catalogue/Pittsboro, NC**-1871 and 1872 catalogs list *Torreya taxifolia* as “Yew-leaved *Torreya*, rigid, shining green leaves \$1.25”. C.B. Denson proprietor and member of Pittsboro Scientific Academy.

**Mount Hope Nurseries/Ellwanger & Barry's Catalogue/Rochester, NY**-1871 catalog lists “Florida Yew (*Torreya taxifolia*) A handsome, bushy, conical shrub \$1 to \$2”

**Peter Lawson & Son Nursery/Edinburgh & London/United Kingdom**  
-1868 to 1869 catalog has four species of *Torreya* including Florida *Torreya*.



**Pomaria Nursery/Pomaria, SC**-1852-1853 nursery catalog has *Torreya taxifolia* listed for sale. Nursery run by William and Adam Summer. Jim Kibler is the expert on the nursery and wrote a book about the writings of the Summers.

**Rosebank Nurseries/Govanstown, MD**-1885 catalog lists William D. Brackenridge as the owner. “*Torreya taxifolia* Florida Yew \$1.00”

**Rosedale Nurseries/Philadelphia, PA**-1859 catalog lists Robert Buist as the nurseryman and seed grower. “*Torreya taxifolia*, Florida Yew; a shrub of medium growth, perfectly hardy with us, of a branching habit”. Small plants 50¢ to \$1

**Royal Palm Nurseries/Manatee, FL**-*Torreya taxifolia* listed in their 1887-88 catalog. Reasoner Brothers are listed as the proprietors.

**S. B. Parsons & Sons/Flushing, NY**-1873 catalog lists *Torreya taxifolia* with a name of Yew-leaved *Torreya* as “a fine hardy tree from Florida” for \$2. J.R. Trumpy propagator.

**Tom Dodd Nursery/Semmes, AL**-Originally a native plant nursery. Specimens from Tom Dodd are found at the National Arboretum and several private collections. This is now a rebranded, Todd Dodd, commercial nursery that no longer grows Florida *Torreya*.

**William R. Prince Nursery/Flushing, NY**-1853 and 1854 catalog list *T. taxifolia* for \$2.

**William Reid Nursery/Elizabethtown, NJ**-1861 catalog lists “Torrey’s Yew” under the genus *Taxus* as *Torreya*. Listed for 50 cents to \$1.

**Wyoming Nursery/Carl Kern/Cincinnati, OH**-A family nursery that lasted roughly 5 generations and closed in 2005.

### **Apalachicola Populations**

*The bulk of the remnant Torreyia population fall into these locations.*

**Angus Gholson Nature Park/Chattahoochee, FL**-0.4 mile trail goes through this public park. Named for local naturalist Angus Gholson (1921-2014). Numerous sprouts throughout park. Park St, Chattahoochee, FL 32324

**Bill and Marcia Boothe Trees/Crooked Creek Preserve/Clermont, FL**-2010 Recovery Plan reveals that Bill Boothe has documented and GPS located 100 trees on his and neighboring properties.

**Dog Pond Trees/Shady Grove, FL/Jackson County**-This is the westernmost population of wild Torreyas. This population was noted by Chapman, confirmed by Kurz, and visited/collected by Nicholson and Schwartz. In an e-mail from Professor Gil Nelson he noted that he and some colleagues went to visit the Dog Pond population and were unable to find any surviving trees.

**Nature Conservancy/Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines Preserve/Bristol, FL**-6,295 acres and contains numerous basal sprouts.

**Torreyia State Park/Bristol, FL**-13,735 acres-Planting of Torreyas by the parking lot, as well as sprouts throughout the habitat contained in the park. Basal sprouts are caged and mulched to protect from deer rubbing. This site has been visited and documented by Torreyia Guardians.

### **Arboretums/Botanical Gardens**

**Arnold Arboretum/Jamaica Plains, MA**-Five plants appear on their database of their plant collections. 2 were wild collected by Nicholson and Schwartz in 1989 and the three other trees derive from the Biltmore Gardens trees. 33 plants from their collection, from Nicholson/Schwartz expedition, were transferred to the Atlanta Botanical Garden in 2010.

**Atlanta Botanical Garden/Atlanta, GA/seed production**-Atlanta

Botanical Garden has around 1000 plants grown from 500 wild collected clones from throughout the wild range of Torreya. They harvested 5000 cones in 2016. 13000 cones were harvested in 2017. They hold the largest population of Florida Torreya. They currently have 323 wild genotypes safeguarded with an additional 407 to be collected in fall 2018. Atlanta Botanical Garden also has plantings at:

-Smithgall Woods (focused on Georgia genotypes)

-Vogel State Park

-Blairsville Research Station

-Atlanta Botanical Garden-Gainesville, GA-have a non public area where plants are grown for their many conservation projects.

*(Trees from Atlanta Botanical Garden have 3rd party restriction agreements on propagation/plant materials.)*

**Bailey Arboretum/Locust Valley, NY**-Arboretum has a tree with a height of 53.6'. Located at 194 Bayville Rd, Locust Valley, NY An email inquiry sent and waiting on response. *Thanks to Eric Danielsen for sharing a photograph of this specimen and noting it's existence in a Champion Tree blog*

**Biltmore Gardens/Asheville, NC/seed production**-1986 Recovery Plan notes 14 large trees and Torreya Guardians had documented at least 19 total specimens on the grounds from the 14 large trees (approximately 75 years old) to seedlings. Donates seeds to Torreya Guardians for distribution. *Bill Alexander was an original contributor to Torreya Guardians and the expert on the forest history of Biltmore. TG Connie Barlow has documented this population on multiple visits and keeps data.*

**Bok Tower Gardens/Lake Wales, FL**-Florida Torreya is a part of their Rare Plant Conservation Program. Unknown population/health/age of trees (At least one). Some online sites reference a collection of Torreya at this location. 2010 recovery plan states that 97 plants were sent to BTG from the Arnold Arboretum in 1991 and 15 were part of the permanent plantings. Seven known plants onsite. Six along the East Glade path and one near the concert viewing area. All appear cutting grown and some have cankers/possible blight. [www.boktowergardens.org](http://www.boktowergardens.org)

**Boone County Arboretum/Union, KY-**This arboretum lists 3 Florida *Torreya* specimens in Bed #38. Located at 9190 Camp Ernst Rd, Union, Kentucky.

**Botanic Garden at Georgia Southern University/Statesboro, GA-**Florida *Torreya* is planted in their endangered plants area that is reached via the Woodland Trail. Number/age of specimens is unknown. 1503 Bland Ave., Statesboro, GA.

**Briarwood Nature Preserve/Saline, LA-** 216 Caroline Dormon Road, Saline, Bienville Parish, LA. One old, large specimen that was originally male, but 10-15 years ago began producing viable cones. There were previously 3 large specimens, but one recently died due to possible sapsucker damage. There are now several seedlings growing around the largest mother plant. These trees were rooted from cuttings, by Caroline Dormon, that she collected from a farmer's land near the new *Torreya* State Park. (So sometime between 1938 and before the paper she wrote on rooting *Torreya* in 1966.) *TG Connie Barlow and TG Clint Bancroft visited the garden and documented these specimens in November 2018.*

**Brooklyn Botanic Garden/Brooklyn, NY-** A 1984 paper, by Richard Stalter, references a male and female tree growing in this arboretum. A check of their plant database shows one tree in their Japanese Hill and Pond Garden. 990 Washington Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11225. Email sent on 3/5/18 inquiring about these trees. An email response on 7/10/18 stated the trees/shrubs are 6' tall and 20' wide. The trees were donated to the garden in 1969 by Todd Dodd of Semmes, AL. The horticulturist in charge of the Japanese Garden since 1999 has never seen the trees fruit.

**Callaway Gardens/Pine Mountain, GA-**1986 Recovery Plan notes trees at this location. E-mail from their director of gardens confirms that trees exist at this location. Some trees located along the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Trail. Director Collins wrote that she doesn't believe any of the trees are producing seeds and they appear to have the blight affecting the Florida population.



**Central Park/New York, NY**-One of two trees sent to Dr. Torrey, by Croom, was planted in Central Park and the other was sent to Newburgh, NY. The tree in Central Park grew well, and cuttings from it were worn at Dr. Torrey's honorary dinner as well as his funeral. No longer exists.

**Cheekwood Estate/Howe Garden/Nashville, TN**-Cheekwood received three, 2 year old Torreyas from the U.S. National Arboretum in 1985. Two of the three trees are still thriving, one male and one female, with first seed production occurring 24 years after planting. The largest specimen measured at 18" circumference, 35' tall and a 20' spread in 2012 and both specimens are now measuring in at 40'+ tall. The two largest trees can be located in the Howe Garden. Seeds/cuttings were collected in 2009 and propagated with assistance from Dr. Croom. Cheekwood also received 6 seedlings from Atlanta Botanical Garden in 2000, located by the Development House, that are also thriving and producing seed. *Many thanks to Cheekwood Plant Collections Manager, Shanna Jones, for taking the time to give a full history on the Cheekwood Torreyas.* 1200 Forrest Park Dr, Nashville, TN 37205 [www.cheekwood.org](http://www.cheekwood.org)

**Coastal Plain Research Arboretum/UGA/Tifton, GA**-Contacted but no information provided after initial response-number/age/health/seed shadow unknown.

**Cox Arboretum/Canton, GA**-This arboretum has *Torreya taxifolia* listed in their database, as well as several other *Torreya* species. 3 trees of unknown age/size. *TG Connie Barlow visited this location in 2019 to view and compare the different Torreya species growing in the Arboretum.*

**Crosby Arboretum/Picayune, MS**-370 Ridge Road, Picayune, MS. This Arboretum possibly has cone bearing trees as they have had *Torreya taxifolia* seedlings at their native plant sales. Part of Mississippi State Extension. Email response stated that there are no plants on location.

**Dawes Arboretum/Newark, OH**-Two surviving Torreyas that were donated by TG Lee Barnes. Documented by Torreya Guardians as growing under a large white oak. 7770 Jacksontown Rd, Newark, OH.

**Goodwood Museum & Gardens/Tallahassee,FL**- 1600 Miccosukee Road, Tallahassee, FL 32308. 20 acres of gardens. One five foot specimen and one 12” seedling. They are located to the front and left of the historic house there, per their gardens manager. [www.goodwoodmuseum.org](http://www.goodwoodmuseum.org)

**Harry P. Leu Gardens/Orlando, FL**-One specimen around 14 years old and is 8 foot tall. 1920 N. Forest Ave, Orlando, FL. This specimen came from Woodlanders Nursery. Their executive director, Robert Bowden, was previously the District Naturalist of Maclay Gardens and worked with Torreya there in the 1970s and 1980s. *Thanks to Mr. Bowden for taking time to talk and give me a history of his experience with Florida Torreya.* [www.leugardens.org](http://www.leugardens.org)

**Henry Foundation/Gladwyne, PA/ 2 male trees**- 801 Stony Lane, Gladwyne, PA. One of the male trees is listed as the Pennsylvania State Champion Torreya tree. Largest tree: Height 38.2’/Circumference 30”/Crown Spread 18’. Director Susan Treadway responded that there are two male trees that were seriously affected by numerous years of drought, but both have new growth and are true survivors. One tree was dug as a seedling in November of 1954, with permission of Frank Woods of the Forestry Experimental Station, and the other tree grew from seeds received in 1939 from Mr. N. Gibson of Torreya State Park. Cuttings from these trees were collected by Woodlanders in the 1980s/90s. Many thanks to Director Susan Treadway for taking me on a hike to these trees and for sharing Mary Henry’s notes, letters and journal entries on her encounters with Torreya in the wild. *Trees visited and documented by TG Paul Camire on August 1, 2018.* [www.henrybotanicgarden.org](http://www.henrybotanicgarden.org)

**Highland Park/Rochester, NY**- R.E. Horsey states that *T. taxifolia* is growing there at 10’ tall and 15 years old. Well sheltered by evergreens and uninjured in the

1917-18 winter. This was found in a 1918 article. *Reply from Kent Millham that he knows of a T. nucifera in the collection, but is looking into existence of a T. taxifolia.*

**Hoyt Arboretum/Portland, OR**-Online database shows two specimens. One acquired in 2003 and the other in 2008. 4000 SW Fairview Blvd., Portland, OR

**Hunnewell Estate/Wellesley, MA**-A February 8, 1919 in Horticulture magazine states that the *T. taxifolia* had been injured in past winters, but not the past winter. Report by T.D. Hatfield. Email inquiry sent 7/25/18.

**J.C. Raulston Arboretum/Raleigh, NC**-4415 Beryl Rd, Raleigh, NC. One specimen in their online database-14' tall as of 2014-appears to be wide spreading from the photograph-possibly cutting grown or lost its top.

**Jones Ecological Research Center/Ichauway, GA**- Unknown number of *Torreya*. One small plant photographed on a blog site. 3988 Jones Center Drive, Newton, GA. This location has a focus on long leaf pine. Only open to public once every other year.

**Kalmia Gardens/Coker College/Hartsville, SC**-1624 West Carolina Avenue, Hartsville, SC. Two tall trees at this location. One tree died recently, but has a small basal spout. The full size tree is at the bottom left of an access road. This tree is unique as it is the first *Torreya taxifolia* to be documented with a burl. The burl has multiple shoots of terminal growth extending from it. *Many thanks to Dan Hill, Assistant Director of Kalmia Gardens, for providing photographs and information on these trees.* [www.kalmiagardens.org](http://www.kalmiagardens.org)

**Leaning Pine Arboretum/Cal Poly/San Luis Obispo, CA**- One specimen photographed on a webpage. Appeared about 3-4' tall and very yellow.

**Meredith College trees/Raleigh, NC**-Seeds/seedlings donated to this college by A. J. Bullard. 3800 Hillsborough St, Raleigh, NC 27607. These trees no longer exist. There were six trees planted around the pond of the campus. The pond was

drained due to a pipe failure and the trees were removed during that time. *Many thanks to Janice Swab who provided a first hand account on this location. She is a professor at the college and was present when the trees were planted in the 1990s.*

**Mission Oaks Gardens/Zanesville, OH**-Two specimens listed in Area 4 SW of Waterfall. Listed as specimen 420. 424 Hunter Ave. One specimen has shrub like growth, is about 10-12 years old, and is 26” tall. The other plant is 5-6 years old, about 36” tall, and appears to be seed grown. Both specimens appear very healthy from the photos sent and no winter damage has been apparent. Each has put on 6” of growth the last two years. *Info provided by Schroeder Dodds.*

**Missouri Botanical Garden/St. Louis, MO**-This garden has a specimen from the Biltmore that arrived in 1992 that appears to be decent size. In late January 2018 they received 100 seeds and 38 seedlings from Atlanta Botanical Garden. Looking at their plant database it shows that they had one *Torreya* tree that was received from Burl Turnage in 1972, but it died before a 1999 census.

**Moore Farms Botanical Garden/Lake City, SC**-This garden has 4 accessions of Florida *Torreya*. 02M0780 was planted in 2003 and is of Woodlanders Nursery origin, this tree is now over 10’ tall. 0084TM13 from 2013. 0220M17 planted in 2017 sourced from Jack Johnston and 0644M17 from 2017. 100 New Zion Road. *Many thanks to Evan Cook for verifying this information and giving an update on the current size of the largest specimen.*

**Morris Arboretum/Philadelphia, PA**-100 E. Northwestern Avenue, Philadelphia, PA. 4 cutting grown plants received from the Arnold Arboretum in 2009 and a seedling received from Polly Hill Arboretum in 2015.

**Mount Holyoke Botanic Garden/South Hadley, MA**-Director Tom Clark brought young plants with him when he moved from curator at Polly Hill to Mount Holyoke. News story states he is growing young plants of Florida *Torreya* and Florida Yew in the Talcott Greenhouse until they are large enough to plant outside.



**New York Botanical Garden/New York, NY**-*Torreya taxifolia* was previously listed in their collection. A note in their current plant database states that it is no longer in their collection.

**Norfolk Botanical Garden/Norfolk, VA**-6700 Azalea Garden Rd. This Garden has two specimens that were both received in 2014. One is in the Enchanted Forest and the other is in the Discovery Grove.

**North Carolina Arboretum/Asheville, NC**-Possibly has seedlings and cuttings from the Norlina tree that were collected in 1994 in addition to seedlings from the Biltmore trees. 11 trees found (3 in the Azalea Repository and 8 on the Mills River trail). *Thanks to Sarah Briggs and Sarah Coury for providing information and photographs of their trees.*

**Peckerwood Gardens/Hempstead, TX**-Seeds received in 2018 from ABG. Newsletter with article about *Torreya taxifolia*.

**Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park/Oyster Bay, NY**-A 1984 paper, by Richard Stalter, references a male and female tree growing in this arboretum. 1395 Planting Fields Rd, Oyster Bay, NY 11771. Response received stating they believe they have two *Torreya nucifera*. *ID required-needs verification.*

**Polly Hill Arboretum/Martha's Vineyard/Tisbury, MA**-This location has 14 *Torreyas* listed in their collection as of 2017. Located in their conifer row 5 and Holly Park Bed 5 in Hilly's Garden. Plants acquired between 2009 to 2011. Some from Arnold Arboretum in 2010 and some from *Torreya* Guardians.

**Sarah P. Duke Gardens/Durham, NC**-This site has one 12 foot male in their Steve Church Endangered Species Garden that was planted in 2005. As of 2017 they were designated an "ex situ nursery" and their Blomquist Garden will be home to 250 *Torreya taxifolia* plants to create seed production. They were expected to receive plants in the fall of 2017 from ABG.

**Secrest Arboretum/Wooster, OH**-13 of 20 donated seeds, donated by Torreyia Guardians, germinated from the 2011 harvest. Plans and locations for planting were made. Current status unknown. 2122 Williams Road, Wooster, OH.

**Spring Grove Cemetery/Cincinnati, OH**- One cutting grown tree of unknown age and unknown sex. Documented/visited by TG Fred Bess in January 2017 and TG Paul Camire in September 2018. Male reproductive structures noted. This tree is declared the National Champion Torreyia Tree. Height-27'/ Circumference-52"/Crown Spread-36'.

**State Botanical Garden of Georgia/University of Georgia/Athens, GA**- At least two trees existed in the garden along with signage. One tree appeared cutting grown and the other seed grown.

**Tallahassee Museum/Tallahassee, FL**-52 acre museum that combines historic buildings and flora/fauna. In 2006 trees at this location were noted as surviving, but not thriving. Number/health/age currently unknown.

**Thompson Mills Forest & Arboretum/Braselton, GA**-This location is part of the UGA Warnell School of Forestry. 1898 Liberty Church Rd., Braselton, GA. One specimen on the Yellow Trail of the John C. Buchanan Collection. Two specimens on the trail from Walnut Knoll to Mulberry River. All three specimens were planted in 1987.

**Trillium Gardens Preserve/Dan Miller/Tallahassee, FL**-This location also hosts a wholesale native plant nursery of the same name. Possibility the torreyia(s?) at this location was acquired from a local nursery.

**University of California Berkeley Botanic Garden/Berkeley, CA**- Two specimens listed and the source is Burl Turnage. Curator, Holly Forbes, reported that their plants were received in 1975 from Callaway Gardens and they originated from Burl Turnage who had rooted them from cuttings from trees originating in Chattahoochee, FL. Both plants are female, but have never produced seedlings.

Holly Forbes also noted that *T. californica* and *T. grandis* are in the collection and could cross pollinate.

**University of North Carolina/Charlotte Botanical Gardens**-9090 Craver Rd, Charlotte, NC. Two Torreyas listed on their website. One on the Camellia walk and one in the Torreya Circle. Added to their collection/database in 2015 and 2016.

**Washington Park Arboretum/Seattle, WA**-2300 Arboretum Drive, Seattle, WA. Four accessions are listed on their database. It appears two were acquired in 1972 and two in 1996. A park bulletin from winter of 1990 shows the original two specimens came from the National Arboretum and Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, GA. Curator, Raymond Larson, reported that there are 7 specimens total. The largest tree is 252-72A that was planted in its current location in 1992. The plants for accession 252-72 (6 plants total) were received from Callaway Gardens from cuttings grown from trees south of Chattahoochee, FL. (Burl Turnage is likely the source of these trees) 314-81 was received from the National Arboretum in 1981 (NA38053) that originated from H.W. Seaman of Norlina, NC (famous Norlina tree).

**Western Carolina University trees/Cullowhee, NC**-Seeds/seedlings donated to this university by A. J. Bullard. 1 University Way, Cullowhee, NC 28723 Email sent and waiting on response.

### **U.S. Government Collections**

**Harrison Experimental Forest/US Forest Service/Saucier, MS**-Three trees from a population there, were used in a photosynthetic experiment. A response was received stating that several have died and the 15 remaining trees (sickly, 5ft and under in size) are struggling and infected with the blight.

**U.S. Botanical Garden/Washington D.C.**-According to their website they have a collection of specimens from the Atlanta Botanical Garden. Their plant

database shows 3 plants. It appears they also received a collection from ABG, but perhaps not listed.

**U.S. National Arboretum/Washington D.C.**-There is a collection of 66 trees at this location. Many that were grown from the Nicholson and Schwartz collection in 1989. 3 trees are from Tom Dodd Nursery in Semmes, AL, and were received by the Arboretum in 1984 and 1985. Note: All specimens from the Nicholson and Schwartz collection were received by the Arboretum from Smith College Botanical Garden in 2002. These trees are located in beds 1 and 67 of the Gotelli Conifer Collection and one in the National Grove of State Trees section 1. Of particular note is one specimen received on October 31, 1968 from Maclay State Garden from F.G. Meyer

### **State Government/Public Grounds**

*Outside of Apalachicola range*

**Florida Capitol Grounds/Tallahassee, FL**-Internet source states that there are Torreyas planted on the Capitol Grounds. Ages of planting/health/number of trees is unknown.

**Florida Caverns State Park/Marianna, FL**-This site has at least one tree about 15' high and signage about Torreyas along a path in the park between the visitor center and the cavern. 3345 Caverns Rd, Marianna, FL

**Guyte P. McCord Park/Tallahassee, FL**-Internet source shows a picture of what appears to be a 5-7' tree. The picture notes that the tree was planted by Charles Salter. Photo by David MacManus in 2007. This tree may be significantly larger due to the date of the photograph.

**Maclay Gardens/State Park/Tallahassee, FL**-1986 Recovery Plan notes trees at this location. It appears these trees had the blight or contracted it shortly after planting. Trees are still growing onsite. Original trees were planted at this site in the 1930s and they were being treated for disease since 1955. This was ground



zero for original attempts to save Florida Torreya. Many experiments and even field plantings occurred here. A YouTube video shows two specimens by a pond.

**Peek Park/Cedartown, GA**-October 2017 article shows ABG plans on having torreya planted at the park. Billy Grant is Cedartown resident shown in the article. N. College Street, Cedartown, GA. Ages of plants/numbers planted are unknown.

**Three Rivers/State Park/Sneads, FL**-This location may have an experimental planting or ex situ planting. The 2014 paper, “Altered Community Flammability in Florida’s Apalachicola Ravines and Implication for the Persistence of the Endangered Conifer *Torreya taxifolia*”, states that in addition to Maclay Gardens they collected leaf litter from Three Rivers so they had enough to test Florida torreya.

### **Private Homes/Gardens**

**A. J. Bullard Trees/Mt. Olive, NC/seed production**-264 Farrior Rd., Mt Olive NC. Two trees grown from seedlings from the Clinton, NC trees. Trees documented/visited by Torreya Guardians and some seeds were given to Connie Barlow in 2013.

**Barry Yinger Tree/York Haven, PA**- Mr. Yinger’s plant survived -24F in York Co., PA and the plant originated from Semmes, AL (Tom Dodd Nursery). Mr. Yinger no longer lives in York Haven, PA, but he believes the tree is still on the property. This specimen has the lateral branch/shrub growth and is roughly 20x20. 600 York Rd York Haven, PA 17370.

**Bill Craft Tree #1/Greensboro Country Park**-One tree from Woodlanders Nursery planted by Bill Craft about 1990. Park address: 3905 Nathanael Greene Dr. Greensboro, NC 27455

**Bill Craft Tree #2/Green Hill Cemetery/Greensboro, NC**-At least one tree from Woodlanders Nursery planted by Bill Craft about 1990. 901 Wharton St,

Greensboro, NC 27401. Email sent to Friends of Green Hill Cemetery for information. (Response: 51 acres has been fully documented by Dr. Doug Goldman and Torreyia no longer exists here.)

**Bill Craft Tree #3/Greensboro, NC**-Tree planted around 1990. Tree was possibly in decline around 2009. (Local resident is contacting Craft children to see if any trees still exist at the family home or possibly at the Greensboro Country Park.)

**Burl Turnage Trees/Albany, GA**-1986 Recovery Plan notes existing trees in Albany, GA-including a seed bearing tree. Possibly on the former property of Burl Turnage who lived at 1813 Lincoln Avenue in Albany, GA and was a retired proofreader and linotype operator for the Albany Herald, as well as listed/consulted on the 1986 Recovery Plan as a “Torreyia Hobbyist”. He died in 2016 at age 98. Update: I was able to locate Burl’s son, Carl Turnage, who lives in Leesburg, GA. Carl believes that Burl’s original source material was from Chattahoochee, FL, but he also rode with his dad up to Columbus, GA a few times and collected seeds from the trees there. Burl Turnage carried on his Torreyia work until about 2006 when he went into an assisted living facility. Burl’s trees at his home in Albany, GA died and were cut down just before 2006. (TG Clint Bancroft visited this property, but no trees were found. Further searches of area planned.)

**Charles Webb Trees/Madison, FL**-Internet source shows pictures of at least 6 vigorous specimens around 6-7 feet tall and one tree much taller. Source says seed source of Sumatra, FL. Photographs were posted in 2008 so trees will be significantly larger and may be producing seeds. Possible location: 1199 Arrowhead Dr, Madison, FL 32340 (owner Superior Trees/Mail Order Nursery. These plants are seed source for nursery stock per TG Clint Bancroft.)

**Columbus Tree/Columbus, GA/lone tree**-538 Front Ave, Columbus, GA. 1986 Recovery Plan notes trees in Columbus, GA. There were previously 3 trees on the street of which two were cut down. The surviving tree appears to have been

hit by lightning and has been documented by the Torreya Guardians and was found to be a male tree with healthy basal sprouts. This is the Georgia State Champion Torreya tree as of 2010.

**Fort Gaines, GA/unknown population/unknown location**-1986 Recovery Plan notes this as a location for existing trees. No further leads/information as of yet.

**Florida Panhandle Trees/Lower Bank of Apalachicola River**-Two trees are noted by Gil Nelson in his “Shrubs and Woody Vines of Florida” as being 1 male and 1 female tree about 10 meters tall. E-mail received from the author, professor Gil Nelson, states that the owner died several years ago and when he and some friends visited the trees it was found that they were destroyed. This location is possibly the Sumatra, FL population that some of the Charles Webb trees originate from.

**Frank Callahan Trees/Medford, OR/seed production**-2 seed grown trees that are approximately 22 years old at the home of Frank’s mother. 2 cutting grown plants at Hawthorn Park, also in Medford, OR that do produce seed, but not always pollinated. All four plants were grown from seeds and cuttings received from the U.S. National Arboretum in 1995. Documented/visited by Torreya Guardians. Large seed harvest donated to Torreya Guardians by Frank Callahan in 2016. Note: Frank’s trees likely originate from 4 specimens at the National Arboretum. Three are located in Fern Valley Native Plant Collection in roadside bed R7-one received March 14, 1984 from Tom Dodd (specimen 54065H), two received December 13, 1985 from Tom Dodd (specimens 56828H and 56828J). The last is located in bed 1 of the Gotelli Conifer Collection and was received from Maclay Gardens in 1968 (specimen 31183J).

**Harbison House/Highlands, NC/seed production**-1986 Recovery Plan notes this population in Highlands and Torreya Guardians has documented the grove with the 6 large trees (approximately 90 years old) a sapling and several seedlings that have generated from the parent trees. Perhaps the best example of

Torreya's potential to thrive outside of its glacial refuge. \*TG Jack Johnston measured largest tree's circumference at 52".

**Harry Elkins/Grosse Pointe Park, MI**-possibly one tree of unknown origin is located at this residence. A 2014 brochure for the Great Lakes Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society notes a *Torreya taxifolia* growing there. Mr. Elkins was a retired teacher and renowned horticulturist. This property was sold in 2017 to Joshua and Erica Peters. 916 Westchester, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230

**Henry Winthrop Sargent/Wodenethe/Fishkill, NY**-20 acre estate overlooking the Hudson River above what is now known as Beacon, NY. Friend of Andrew Jackson Downing. His 1859 supplement to Downing's book describes his NY Torreya. Unknown if his tree/trees still survive (Aerial view of former property shows a couple groups of mature evergreen trees, however the property was developed into residential housing). Wodenethe was kept intact until 1955 when it was subdivided. The tree(s?) was 8 foot tall in 1859 and perfectly hardy. **Update:** Mr. Sargent's Torreya was received from A.J. Downing, who had grown it in his greenhouse. Mr. Downing received that same Torreya from the original seedlings that were collected by H.B. Croom and first received by Dr. Torrey. This plant grew to over 10' high and wide before dying in April of 1875.

**J. R. Poinsett/Greenville, S.C.**-1849 Horticulturist article where Mr. Joel Roberts Poinsett names *Torreya taxifolia* as being a recent introduction that has proven hardy in the ground at his garden. This property and survival of this tree is unknown. Torreyas could be located at his first summer home on Pendleton Rd, which is west of Greenville. The other possible location is his second summer home above Gap Creek in the northwestern section of Greenville. (*Our Christmas time Poinsettias are named after this gentleman. His travels and history are a fascinating read.*)

**Julius T. Holden Tree/Marianna, FL**-4351 Lafayette Street. Dr. J.T. Holden, in a letter dated July 20, 1921, stated that "The tree is a cone bearer though the one in my yard has never borne cones though over 60 years old." If this tree still



exists, then it could possibly date from around 1840 and put it on par with the Norlina and Columbus trees.

**Karl Kern Tree/Wyoming Nurseries/Cincinnati**-Arnold Arboretum report, by Irina Kadis, notes that Karl Kern supplied Arnold Arboretum with plants in 1962 and that there was a large specimen in their area that survived perfectly-Possibility that she was talking about the Spring Grove Cemetery specimen but if the Spring Grove specimen was trimmed into bush form until recently then there may be a larger tree in the area. Further investigation may be warranted if this nursery was supplying Torreyia trees to this area in the 1960s. Note: Carl Kern is noted, in a 1906 article, as becoming assistant superintendent of Spring Grove Cemetery. This links him to the Spring Grove specimen...but the question remains-did his Wyoming Nursery supply the Spring Grove tree or did he use the Spring Grove tree as the source for cuttings/seedlings for his nursery business?

**Ladel Brothers Tree/Madison, FL/lone tree**-204 N Washington Avenue, Madison, FL 32340. Female tree and documented by Torreyia Guardians. This tree is the Florida State Champion Torreyia tree. There was formerly another tree near the post office at 197 SW Pinckney St., Madison, FL 32340 but apparently it was recently cut down to make way for a sidewalk in mid 2017. 2014 measurements: Height 41'/Circumference 69"/Crown Spread 40' \**TG Clint Bancroft's measurement of the circumference in 2017: 72.5"*

**Lurman Tree/Catonsville**, MD-1881 article states "Mrs. Lurman lives in Catonsville. Mr. Fauth is her gardener there. On the grounds there is a Torreyia taxifolia ten feet high and other rare and good things." The majority of the old Lurman Arboretum was turned into parking and a school. Only a few plants on the grounds remain and list of current species does not contain Torreyia. Tree likely destroyed in 1954 during the construction of the school.

**Mrs. Kennedy Trees/Clinton, NC/seed production**-One mature tree producing seeds at 613 College St. in Clinton, NC. Second tree was toppled by a

pine tree and appears to be growing from basal sprouts. Three 3-4 ft trees and seedlings coming up in the lawn. This home is currently listed for sale and pictures reveal the 6ft tall sprout from the toppled tree has been removed. Property is also planned to be divided into two lots. Documented by Torreya Guardians in 2013 and seed/seedlings collected. Possibly other trees in the vicinity as new information revealed there were a couple more trees about a block away that were cut down.

**Norlina Tree/Norlina, NC/status?**-1986 Recovery Plan notes this tree as the largest existing Torreya and planted around 1840. Tree is believed to have come from Pomaria Nursery which was located in Pomaria, SC. There have been reports that the tree has died, however it is still listed as the North Carolina Champion Torreya tree and possibly surviving from basal sprouts. Possible seed production as well as having seedlings growing in its vicinity. Torreya Guardian, Lee Barnes, visited the tree in the 1980s. *This tree is likely located at 620 Poplar Mountain Rd, Norlina, NC at the Calvin & Judy Seaman Farm.*

**Robert Craddock Tree/Hardy, VA**-430 Deer Ridge Dr., Hardy, VA 24101-3413. Noted as growing in Mr. Craddock's garden in a Southeastern Palm Society bulletin from 2013

**R.S. Field/Princeton, N.J.**-Mr. Field states that he has "two varieties of this interesting plant...both hardy here...I have two good specimens of it, which have been exposed for two winters without injury." This is from the Magazine of Horticulture 1867. Currently, it is unknown if these trees have survived or where the Field property was.

**Tom Dodd Tree/Semmes, AL**-Unknown number of trees, size or age. This tree(s) was the source of several surviving Torreyas sourced from Mr. Dodd's nursery. TG Clint Bancroft is actively searching for this tree.

### **International Collections**

**Allard Arboretum/Angers, France**-One specimen of *Torreya taxifolia* 'Argentea' that is mentioned as being over 8 meters tall and slow growing. Arboretum des Barres/France-This Arboretum has supplied Florida Torreya to other locations. Unknown number of specimens/source of specimens.

**Arboretum des Grandes Bruyeres/France**-Five Torreyas that were received from Lowgardens in Belgium, Woodlanders Nursery in South Carolina and Arboretum des Barres in France.

**Arboretum de Villardebelle/France**-Received 10 cones from Torreya Guardians in 2005. It appears they had at least two germinate. Last update was in 2010.

**Arboretum Oudenbosch/Netherlands**-Appears that their Torreya(s?) are kept under glass at this location.

**Arboretum Wespelaar/Belgium**-According to their database they have 7 existing specimens that are all hardy and only one of the 7 is not vigorous.

**Beijing Botanical Gardens/China**-This garden possibly houses *Torreya taxifolia* plants that President Ronald Reagan took as a gift for an official state visit there. Plants were supplied by the U.S. National Arboretum.

**Botanical Garden of Naples/Italy**-A 1904 article by Grace E. Cooley, lists *Torreya taxifolia* as growing in this garden. A search of their current plant database only shows California Torreya. Appears to no longer exist at this location.

**Cluny House Gardens/Perthshire/Scotland**-Received three *Torreya taxifolia* plants from the Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh in 2008.

**Hortus Botanicus Amsterdam/Netherlands**-According to their plant database they have one or two specimens in their Conifers East section. Hortus

Haren/Netherlands-One website made reference that this garden has Florida Torreyia. Email query sent 7/13/18

**Kalmthout Arboretum/Belgium**-This arboretum has the cultivar *Torreya taxifolia* 'Argentea' that was planted in 1910. This tree was purchased from a nursery around Como, Italy. The tree has had some branches that have reverted to the true form and has even produced seeds that the arboretum has germinated.

**Ramster Garden/Chiddingfold, England**-At least one freshly mulched Florida Torreyia.

**Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh/Scotland**-Received a duplicate collection of Atlanta Botanic Gardens stock. It appears not all of the genotypes survived the trip and another duplicate collection was sent.

**Trauttmansdorff Castle Gardens/Italy**-One photograph found of a young specimen at this garden.

**Trompenburg Arboretum/Rotterdam, Netherlands**-Has at least one specimen of Florida torreyia.

### **Torreya Guardians Seed Production**

*There are several plantings done by Torreya Guardians on private lands that are doing quite well and two Torreya Guardians have been able to produce seeds. As more Torreya Guardians begin seed production they will be added to this list and the website. [www.torreyaguardians.org](http://www.torreyaguardians.org)*

**Fred Bess/Cleveland, OH/Torreya Guardian**-Fred has grown several plants from seedlings/seed and had his first cone production in 2017.

**Jeff Morris/Spencer, NC/Torreya Guardian**-Jeff has induced young plants to cone and has young plants in the ground.

### **Nurseries**

*Nurseries (sometimes) selling seedlings for intra-state deliveries. Stock is not always constant and most require onsite pick up.*

**Growild Nursery/Fairview, TN**-Have a few *Torreya* plants listed. This is a wholesale nursery with occasional retail sales by appointment. Seed source was donated by *Torreya* Guardians in 2011. 7190 Hill Hughes Rd, Fairview, TN 37062. [www.growildinc.com](http://www.growildinc.com)

**Mail Order Natives/Lee, FL**-Sumatra, FL/Madison, FL/Columbus, GA are the sources of seeds/plants (Charles Webb is the owner). [www.mailordernatives.com/](http://www.mailordernatives.com/)

**Native Nurseries/Tallahassee, FL**-Unknown source of seeds/plants. Possibly local trees planted in Tallahassee. 1661 Centerville Road, Tallahassee, FL 32308 Phone: (850) 386-8882 [www.nativenurseries.com/](http://www.nativenurseries.com/)

**Nearly Native Nursery/Fayetteville, GA**-Jack Johnston donated seeds. [www.nearlynativenursery.com/](http://www.nearlynativenursery.com/)

**Niche Nursery/Chapel Hill, NC**-seed source was donated by Jack Johnston. 1111 Dawson Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27516 (Going out of business in fall 2019) [www.nichegardens.com/](http://www.nichegardens.com/)

**Overhill Gardens/Vonore, TN**-seedlings grown from 2013 TG seed harvest donated to the nursery. 1404 Citico Road, Vonore, TN 37885 [www.overhillgardens.com](http://www.overhillgardens.com)

**Seven Pines Native Plant Nursery/Defuniak Springs, FL**-inventory list shows 3 gallon plants. 2365 County Highway 192, Owner Dara Dobson. 850-830-8996 Email: [Wildflowersmatter@7pinesranch.com](mailto:Wildflowersmatter@7pinesranch.com)

**Superior Trees/Lee, FL**- Sumatra, FL/Madison, FL/Columbus, GA are the sources of seeds/plants (Charles Webb is the owner). [www.superiortrees.net/](http://www.superiortrees.net/)

**Woodlanders Nursery/Aiken, SC**-Plants are seed grown from plants derived from the female Norlina tree and male Henry Foundation trees.

[www.woodlanders.net](http://www.woodlanders.net)

### **International Nurseries**

**Lowgardens Nursery/Wernhout, Netherlands**-Maalbergenstraat 26, 4884 MT WERNHOUT. The owner of the nursery, Peter Vanlaerhoven, got his stock from a friend in Hulsdonk, Belgium. Peter took cuttings and rooted them this past winter. [www.lowgardens.com](http://www.lowgardens.com)

### **Conclusion**

There are likely many more mature *Torreya taxifolia* in existence. Over the years there have been many promoters of the species. Burl Turnage, A.J. Bullard, Bill Alexander, Lee Barnes, Jack Johnston and Frank Callahan have distributed seeds/seedlings widely in order to save the Florida Torreya. The heroic collection and propagation efforts of Rob Nicholson, Mark Schwartz, Ida Hay, Arnold Arboretum and Smith College have led to genetics from the Apalachicola to be preserved and meticulously documented to their precise watershed.

After Croom's discovery of the species in 1833, it became a desired exotic plant at several Victorian-era estates, in the north, from at least 1840. There are bound to be more discoveries of plants in the future, and any additions should be made to this list. Contact the author at [paul\\_camire@hotmail.com](mailto:paul_camire@hotmail.com) or Torreya Guardians.

*Paul Camire with Ladel Brothers tree in Madison, Florida in December 2018.*

