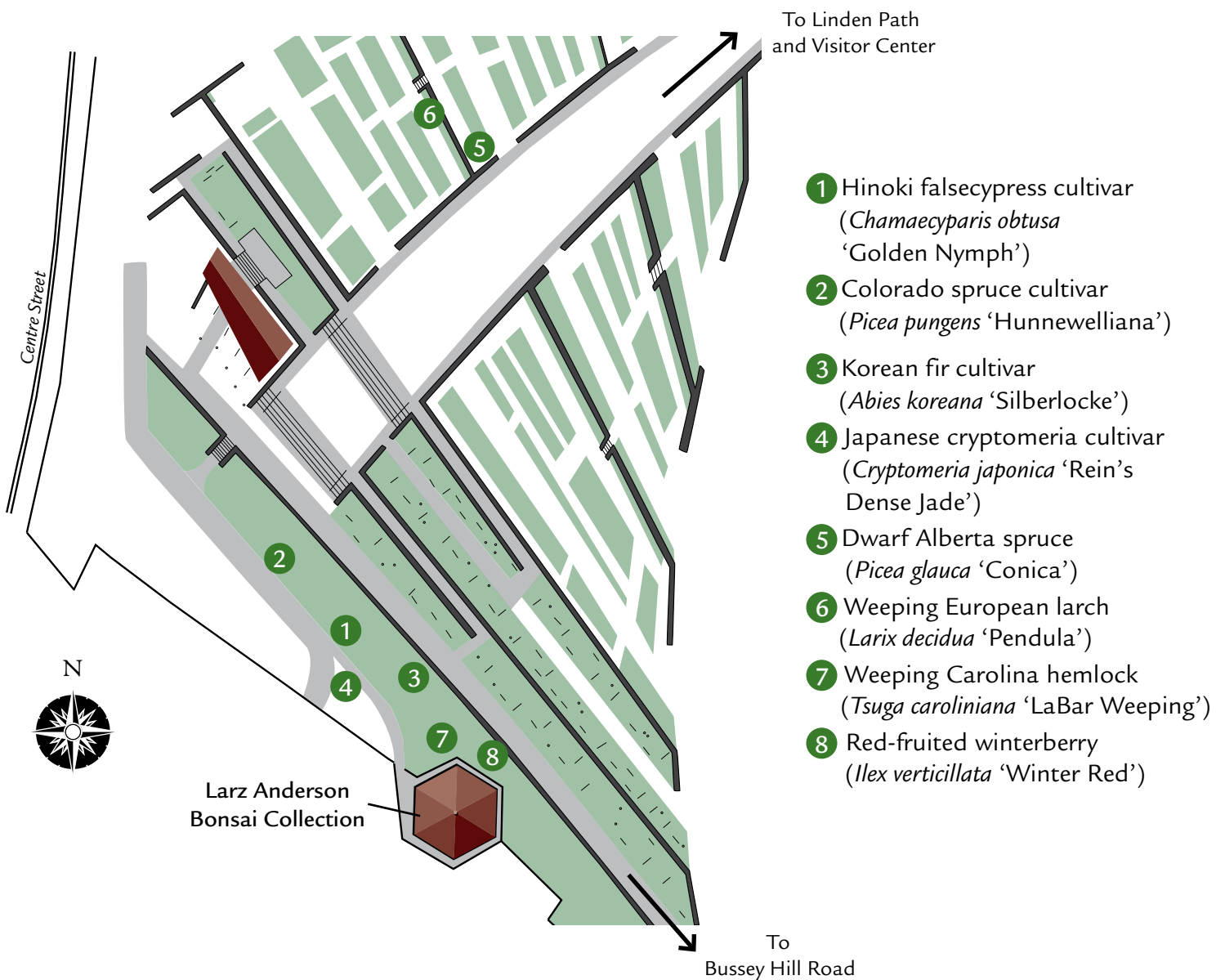


Dwarf Conifers of the Leventritt Garden

A small collection of dwarf conifers is located on the slope between the Leventritt Shrub and Vine Garden and the Larz Anderson Bonsai Collection. There are also several dwarf and weeping conifers within the Leventritt Shrub and Vine Garden. Dwarf conifers are variants of conifers; they grow more slowly and remain significantly smaller than normal for the given species. Dwarf conifers originate in a number of ways. They may be seedlings with genetic mutations that reduce their growth, or they may arise as branch sports (mutated growth on otherwise normal plants) that are then propagated.



A number of dwarf conifers are noted for their colorful (non-green) foliage. Plants with yellow or gold foliage can make effective accents in the landscape, since the lighter, brighter color stands out from surrounding green tones. Look for the gold-tipped foliage of **1** *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Golden Nymph', pictured at right, a dense, mounded shrub about 5 feet tall and wide. Blue-foliaged dwarf conifers are also eye-catching; an example is the broad, conical specimen of **2** *Picea pungens* 'Hunnewelliana'.



Some dwarf conifers sport unusual foliar characteristics. One striking example in the collection is the **3** Korean fir cultivar (*Abies koreana* 'Silberlocke'), an intermediate dwarf conifer that has short, dark green needles that curve upward around the stem, revealing silvery white undersides. Adding to its garden appeal are the purplish upright cones, often frosted with sticky resin.



5 Dwarf Alberta spruce (*Picea glauca* 'Conica') is a popular dwarf conifer. It has very short, fine needles that form a dense outer layer on its neatly cone-shaped form. The original plant was found in Alberta, Canada in 1904 by J. G. Jack and Alfred Rehder of the Arnold Arboretum.



4 *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Rein's Dense Jade' is a dense, upright growing cultivar of Japanese cryptomeria. Its closely pressed, awl-shaped needles give the branches a ropelike appearance. Foliage is bright green in summer and develops bronze tints during the winter.

Several slow-growing weeping conifers are included in the dwarf conifer and shrub collections. In the shrub garden, look for the **6** weeping European larch (*Larix decidua* 'Pendula') pictured at right, gracefully trailing over a stone terrace wall. This deciduous conifer has lovely bright green summer foliage that turns gold in autumn. Even the bare winter branches add interest, especially when outlined with fresh snow. In the upper collection, a **7** weeping Carolina hemlock cultivar (*Tsuga caroliniana* 'LaBar Weeping') is set off by a backdrop of **8** red-fruited winterberry (*Ilex verticillata* 'Winter Red').

