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12-2017

Cercidiphyllum japonicum (Katsura Tree) ID# Unknown

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Arboretum Project

Kunsang C. Lama

<p><i>Tree Common Name:</i> Katsura tree</p> <p><i>Tree Scientific Name:</i> <i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i></p> <p>Location: In front of library</p> <p>Height: 2.82 m</p> <p>DBH: 15 cm</p> <p>Radius of Crown: 1.60 m</p> <p>Condition: Unknown</p> <p>Age Class: Unknown</p> <p>Dates of Observation: Sep. 20, 27, Oct. 4, 12, 20, 28 and Nov. 5, 15, 27</p> <p>Name: Kunsang C. Lama</p>	
<p><i>Observation 1</i></p> <p>9/20/2017</p> <p>On my first observation, I noticed the first few leaves of katsura tree had started to fall. However, there were few new leaves were developing too. The tree appeared strong and</p>	<p>NA</p>

the soil was wet with morning watering.	
<p><i>Observation 2</i></p> <p>9/27/2017</p> <p>I went to observe katsura tree in the evening.</p> <p>The tree had started to change the color of its leaves to yellowish orange particularly the top part of the tree due to the fall season.</p>	NA
<p><i>Observation 3</i></p> <p>10/4/2017</p> <p>This time, the leaves appeared more mature, they had spread fully. Few more leaves had started to fall off.</p>	
<p><i>Observation 4</i></p> <p>10/12/2017</p>	NA

In my fourth observation, I noticed two squirrels running around the katsura tree and a sparrow flying from the tree.

Observation 5

10/20/2017

It was a sunny morning. The soil was wet from the morning watering and the tree appeared more fresh. This time, more leaves had fallen on the ground.



Observation 6

10/28/2017

This time, the leaves appeared drier. Few branches had shed leaves especially on the end part and appeared bare.



Observation 7

11/5/2017

I noticed major top part of the tree had shed its leaves, thin branches with few leaves were visible too. However the bottom crown radius had more leaves.



Observation 8

11/15/2017

With the coming of the winter, the tree appeared weak and thin more than 90% leaves had been shed.

NA

Observation 9

11/27/2017

The tree had shed leaves completely. It appeared thin and small. The ground was dry. 80% of the surrounding other trees had shed leaves too. It showed the end of fall and the start of the winter season.



Summary narrative:

After observing this tree for three and half months, I noticed that the development of this tree is greatly affected with the change of season, movement of the wind and the type of manure/fertilizer used. During my first four observations, the tree was well fed with a good amount of water and compost manure. This helped the tree develop its leaves more rapidly and the tree appeared healthy. I also noticed squirrels playing around the tree. This tells us that we need to protect the tree in order to conserve biodiversity in the environment around us. Katsura tree changed its color based on the season, this fall the leaves turned from yellow to apricot and brownish yellow. In this way, katsura tree serves as an ornamental plant and fulfills our seasonal

interest. With the coming of the fall season and the inconsistent movement of wind, the tree started to shed its leaves more rapidly. Thus, my last observation of katsura tree on November 27th resulted in bare branches. I also noticed almost all of the neighboring trees had shed leaves completely.

References:

Oral communication with university gardener

“Katsura tree.” *Katsura tree*, *The Morton Arboretum*,

www.mortonarb.org/trees-plants/tree-plant-description/katsura-tree.