Between 1902 and 1920 several hundred trees of various species were brought to Tervuren from all over the world. They were imported from countries with approximately the same temperate climate as ours. The aim? To see whether trees from other continents would thrive in this country too! The trees that felt at home here from the start have developed into the thickest and largest of their kind in Belgium.

In Tervuren's woodland arboretum, the trees are arranged according to their natural region of origin. The domain covers no less than 120 ha. As a 'geographical arboretum' on this scale, it is unique in Europe.

Travel around the world with 700 tree species
Discover the champions of the arboretum!
Pinus rigida
(02) Pitch pine
The toughest wood is often used for furniture.

The pitch pine is a survivor. It even comes back to life after a fire: it is one of the few deciduous trees that can regenerate from its branches. Its offshoots can form on the trunk. Its needles are reddish when they first appear and then turn dark green. If you rub its long needles, you will smell mandarin.

Nyssa sylvatica
(03) Monkey-puzzle tree
The sharpest "monkey-puzzle" because a monkey can't get its teeth into it. The thick, sharp scales make it hard to get hold of. Why is it called the monkey-puzzle? Because a monkey cannot climb it without hurting itself. A good name, but not based on facts: monkeys don’t live in this region.

Araucaria araucana
(04) Silver maple
The noblest tree of origin in the Caucasus. Its leaves take the form of a hand, the most maples. But this one has leaves that turn silver on the edge of the wood in the arboretum. This fine maple stands out at the tourist visitor centre ‘De Warandepoort’.

Betula papyrifera
(05) Great silver fir
The tallest in the arboretum
The great silver fir grows in the forests near the Pacific Ocean and the Rocky Mountains. At fifty metres, it rises high above all the other trees in the arboretum. When you rub its long needles, you will smell mandarin.

Acer saccharinum
(06) Giant sequoia
The most useful
This is the most voluminous tree in the world. The giant sequoia can reach 10 metres in diameter and 30 metres in height and can live for 3000 years. It will never grow this big here: it suffers too much from the frost. It has an exceptionally thick, soft bark.

Nyssa sylvatica
(07) Incense Cedar
The sharpest
The decorative tupelo is brilliant yellow, orange or even purple. In autumn they turn the tree into one great ball of fire.

Nordmann fir
(08) Monkey-puzzle tree
The sharpest
The sharpest "monkey-puzzle" because a monkey can’t get its teeth into it. The thick, sharp scales make it hard to remove: its needles are very expensive and fetch a high price in the wood industry. Its wood is strong, hard and durable.

Araucaria araucana
(09) Silver maple
The noblest
The noblest tree of origin in the Caucasus. Its leaves take the form of a hand, the most maples. But this one has leaves that turn silver on the edge of the wood in the arboretum. This fine maple stands out at the tourist visitor centre ‘De Warandepoort’.

Acer saccharinum
(10) Great silver fir
The tallest in the arboretum
The great silver fir grows in the forests near the Pacific Ocean and the Rocky Mountains. At fifty metres, it rises high above all the other trees in the arboretum. When you rub its long needles, you will smell mandarin.

Myrica cerifera
(11) Great silver fir
The tallest in the arboretum
The great silver fir grows in the forests near the Pacific Ocean and the Rocky Mountains. At fifty metres, it rises high above all the other trees in the arboretum. When you rub its long needles, you will smell mandarin.

Betula papyrifera
(12) Great silver fir
The tallest in the arboretum
The great silver fir grows in the forests near the Pacific Ocean and the Rocky Mountains. At fifty metres, it rises high above all the other trees in the arboretum. When you rub its long needles, you will smell mandarin.

Araucaria araucana
(13) Silver maple
The noblest
The noblest tree of origin in the Caucasus. Its leaves take the form of a hand, the most maples. But this one has leaves that turn silver on the edge of the wood in the arboretum. This fine maple stands out at the tourist visitor centre ‘De Warandepoort’.

Betula papyrifera
(14) Great silver fir
The tallest in the arboretum
The great silver fir grows in the forests near the Pacific Ocean and the Rocky Mountains. At fifty metres, it rises high above all the other trees in the arboretum. When you rub its long needles, you will smell mandarin.

Araucaria araucana
(15) Silver maple
The noblest
The noblest tree of origin in the Caucasus. Its leaves take the form of a hand, the most maples. But this one has leaves that turn silver on the edge of the wood in the arboretum. This fine maple stands out at the tourist visitor centre ‘De Warandepoort’.

Betula papyrifera
(16) Great silver fir
The tallest in the arboretum
The great silver fir grows in the forests near the Pacific Ocean and the Rocky Mountains. At fifty metres, it rises high above all the other trees in the arboretum. When you rub its long needles, you will smell mandarin.