

Cassia leptophylla—Gold Medallion Tree

After Redbud (*Cercis spp.*) *Cassia leptophylla* (Gold Medallion Tree) is the second most common member of the legume family (Fabaceae) planted on the Avenue. This tree species comes from Brazil and blooms predominantly in the summer and sporadically during the remainder of the year. Gold Medallion Tree is open-headed, low spreading with gracefully branching and is nearly evergreen with large, compound leaves. It grows quickly and at maturity reaches 20-25 ft tall and 30 ft wide. Flowers are borne on terminal inflorescences that are 6-8 in long with densely clustered, bright yellow flowers. After flowering, long green pods (legumes) are produced.

The species was introduced to California in 1958 by the LA Arboretum. It is a popular street tree in Riverside due to its low water requirements and showy flowers.

