8. Vine
A vine is any plant that grows by trailing, climbing or using runners. In recent times vines have become to mean grape vines whilst climbing plants are now called ‘climbers’.

9. Yew
The common yew is an English native often found in churchyards. Whilst birds eat the fruit, the tree is poisonous to most animals. Yew wood is special being easy to work with great elasticity. This means it is often used to make longbows to which the poem refers.

10. Mulberry
Black mulberry trees were brought to Britain in the 17th century to try and start a silk industry but this was the wrong variety and instead was used as herbal remedy for ringworm. The poem relates to the fact that the berries are used in natural dyeing.

11. Apple
Wild apple trees originated in Central Asia and it is believed that they were brought to Britain by the Romans. They have been transported around the world and are grown as a crop worldwide.

12. Fig
It is believed that figs are an ancient species, around 60 million years old. Despite what the poem says the fig is pollinated by specialised fig wasps. The reference to bees maybe their love for split fruit as a source of sugar.

13. Pear
Woodwind makers favour pear wood as it doesn’t warp, this also makes it a favourite of printers when making wood blocks. Pear trees are often mixed with apple trees in orchards which are havens for many native meadow flowers.

If you have enjoyed the Standen Poetry Trail why not discover how nature inspired the artists of Morris & Co. in the exhibition throughout the house.

Standen Poetry Trail inspired by

‘Tapestry Trees’

by William Morris

**Oak**
I am the Roof-tree and the Keel;
I bridge the seas for woe and weal.

**Vine**
I draw the blood from out the earth;
I store the sun for winter mirth.

**Fir**
High o’er the lordly oak I stand,
And drive him on from land to land.

**Orange**
Amidst the greenness of my night,
My odorous lamps hang round and bright.

**Ash**
I heft my brother’s iron bane;
I shaft the spear, and build the wain.

**Fig**
I who am little among trees
In honey-making mate the bees.

**Yew**
Love’s lack hath dyed my berries red:
For Love’s attire my leaves are shed.

**Mulberry**
Black mulberry trees were brought to Britain in the 17th century to try and start a silk industry but this was the wrong variety and instead was used as herbal remedy for ringworm. The poem relates to the fact that the berries are used in natural dyeing.

**Pear**
Woodwind makers favour pear wood as it doesn’t warp, this also makes it a favourite of printers when making wood blocks. Pear trees are often mixed with apple trees in orchards which are havens for many native meadow flowers.

**Poplar**
The war-shaft and the milking-bowl
I make, and keep the hay-wain whole.

**Olive**
The King I bless; the lamps I trim;
In my warm wave do fishes swim.

**Bay**
Look on my leafy boughs, the Crown
Of living song and dead renown!

**Apple**
I bowed my head to Adam’s will;
The cups of toiling men I fill.
1. Olive
Olive trees have been of agricultural importance to the Mediterranean area for centuries. With their by-product, olive oil, being used for centuries as a fuel for lamps as referred to in this poem.

2. Bay
The bay is an aromatic evergreen flowering shrub which is used worldwide in cooking. The poem mentions that the stems and leaves were used by the Romans for both honour crowns and funeral wreaths.

3. Poplar
Black poplars, as grown here at Standen, are critically endangered in Britain due to being dioecious, meaning there are both male and female trees. Female trees are often cut down due to their white fluffy seeds. Poplar wood is flexible and easy to work with so is often used for bowls or tool handles.

4 Ash
A tall slender tree with a high feathery crown. The seeds are ‘winged’ and can fly great distances from the tree. The wood absorbs shocks and doesn’t splinter so was often used for spears and cart axels, as suggested in the poem.

5. Oak
The King of British trees. Living up to 800 years or more it grows in to a large spreading tree with deeply lobed leaves and black grey deeply fissured bark. The poem relates to the use of the timber for building houses and ships.

6. Fir
To Morris a fir meant any coniferous tree. Firs have very small leaf structures called needles which prevent moisture loss. As well as being used for wood, firs also produce resin and oils used as adhesives and perfumes.

7. Orange (in the conservatory in cold weather)
Historically orange trees were grown in specially built Orangeries by rich people to show off their wealth. The poem depicts the fragrant and brightly coloured fruit shining through the foliage.