

Stop 380 Adult Tour – Cool Temperate House Overview

Built in 1981, the Cool Temperate House is one of the newest greenhouses in the complex. It houses larger plants that can't survive *outside*, yet they don't need or they're not adapted to *tropical* conditions. They're *subtropical* plants - plants that come from the cooler temperate areas of the world. That's why the humidity levels in here feel much lower than in many of the other houses and why, in the winter, the temperature is kept in the 50s.

Rob: “In this greenhouse the plantings were renovated in 2004, and we divided them into four distinct geographic regions and those are: Asia, Latin America, Africa, and Australia and New Zealand. What we try to feature in this house is a number of economically important plants from each area.

Keep an eye out for the color-coded signs that point out the greenhouse's four geographic regions: Plum for Asia, Tan for Latin America, Green for Africa, and Blue for Australia and New Zealand. As you explore this large house, you may come across an avocado tree from Central America. Or your nose may lead you to a Eucalyptus tree from Australia. Look for the tea, coffee, and cherimoya, and plants that are adapted to a “Mediterranean” climate of cool wet winters and dry summers, including fig and olive.