

## Bright Spots



# Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

### A SELF GUIDED WALKING TOUR

September 27, 2017

#### Did you know...?

The reputation of Goldenrod (*Solidago*) suffers from guilt by association. At this time of year its yellow blooms are so abundant that it is often blamed for allergic symptoms, but its pollen is heavy and sticky and is not airborne. The actual culprit is ragweed, which blooms at the same time and distributes its pollen on the wind. Ironically the genus name is from the Latin *solidus* (whole) and *ago* (to make), a reference to goldenrod's healing properties. It was used by Native Americans to treat burns (roots) and fever (flower tea).

The genus is native across the entire North American continent. The Garden's Plant Explorer database lists several plantings of five different species. *Solidago canadensis*, currently putting on a stunning show in the Anderson Wildflower Meadow is very tall and straight and with its burst of golden blooms on top looks like the plant version of a royal scepter. *Solidago rugosa* 'Fireworks' in the upper Asian Valley and the Medicinal Garden has a more delicate aspect, like a shower of golden sparks.

Perhaps the most surprising fact about *Solidago* is that the leaves contain 7% rubber. Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, and George Washington Carver are all known to have attempted to devise a way to make this a commercially feasible product. Ford actually produced some tires made of goldenrod rubber, but the quality was considered too poor to continue.

Sources: <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=m400>; <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goldenrod>; <http://www.finegardening.com/goldenrod-solidago>; *A Field guide to Medicinal Plants*, S. Foster, p. 124, 1990; *Garden Flora*, N. Kingsbury, [SB 404.9 .K56 2016, p. 307-8.

**\*Notable Plants:** Several times each month, Garden Volunteers record the most dramatic seasonal displays and highlight exceptional plants in the garden and Conservatory.

+Denotes Virginia Native Plant

Plant Material	Location
<b>CENTRAL GARDEN and CONSERVATORY LOOP</b>	
<b>FOUNTAIN TERRACE</b> <i>Tropical display in yellow, reds and purple include Caladium, Begonia, Bromeliad, Cordyline, Agave and Petunia</i> <i>Notice the four Lantana trained to a single standard in tall pots around the Fountain</i>	
OUTSIDE THE GATES TURN LEFT	
TURN RIGHT TO ENTER	

<b>GEORGE BRAGDON DAFFODIL GARDEN</b>	
Sedum, <i>Hylotelephium telephium</i> 'Munstead Dark Red', flat clusters of deep fuchsia flowers over fleshy leaves	Right of path
<i>Solanum quitoense</i> , dramatic green leaves with purple veins studded with spines; fuzzy fruits forming	All urns
Sedum, <i>Hylotelephium spectabile</i> 'Brilliant', flat clusters of pink flowers over fleshy leaves	Throughout
RETURN TO THE BRICK PATH, TURN RIGHT TO	
<b>EAST and WEST TRIANGLE BEDS</b> <i>Bold colored annuals transitioning to Fall plantings</i>	
<b>FOUNTAIN GARDEN</b> Upper Level	
<i>Agastache</i> x 'Blue Boa', wands of fuzzy blue-purple flowers on low mounding plant	Center of beds on both sides
<i>Abelia</i> 'Little Richard', low glossy-leaved shrub, small tubular white flowers, much visited by bees and butterflies, fragrant	Both sides
Sedum, <i>Hylotelephium spectabile</i> 'Autumn Fire', flat clusters of rusty red flowers over fleshy light green leaves	East side
Bluebeard, <i>Caryopteris</i> x <i>clandonensis</i> 'Longwood Blue', Small shrub with bluegreen leaves, indigo blue flowers emerging along stems; full of bees	East side
Willow-leaved sunflower, <i>Helianthus salicifolius</i> 'Low Down', Shaggy daisy-like yellow flowers with brown centers over thread-like foliage	East side
CONTINUE UP THE STEPS TO THE CONSERVATORY	
Ornamental grass, <i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> 'Blonde Ambition', spikes of bristly pale seed heads floating above clumps of blue-green foliage	Grass beds outside the Conservatory
Ravenna Grass, <i>Saccharum ravennae</i> , very tall, erect, clump-forming grass	Outside corners, rear of bed
<b>Conservatory Ponds</b>	
Mosaic Plant, <i>Ludwigia sedoides</i> , small yellow blossoms, red and green diamond-shaped leaves in rosettes float on water surface	Both sides
Egyptian Papyrus, <i>Cyperus papyrus</i> , tall straight stems with globe of green "threads" on top	Throughout
<i>Victoria cruziana</i> , large floating leaves like round trays with turned up edges, older leaves have collapsed edges	Throughout
<b>CONSERVATORY</b>	
<b>Palm House</b>	
Queen Sago Palm, <i>Cycas circinalis</i> , cone-bearing evergreen, stiff leaves with stiff narrow leaflets and strongly recurved margins. Notice the emerging velvety new leaves. This plant is not actually a palm tree.	Central spiral planter, right side
Bird of Paradise, <i>Strelitzia reginae</i> , vivid orange and bright purple crane-shaped flower, large dark green fan shaped leaves	Both sides of entrance
<b>East Wing</b> <i>Enjoy the abundance of Orchids</i>	
Orchid, <i>Guarianthe bowringiana</i> , 2', ruffled flower petal, deep purple lip, cream center	Left side, pot on ledge
Lei Orchid, <i>Dendrobium</i> hybrid, pure white	Rear, multiple pots on both sides
<b>North Wing</b>	

<b>BUTTERFLIES LIVE! IS OPEN UNTIL OCTOBER 15</b>	
<b>West Wing</b>	
Ellemeet's Agave, <i>Agave ellemeetiana</i> , huge specimen with gracefully curving leaves, from the cloud forests of Mexico near Oaxaca	Left of entrance
Lion's Eye, <i>Leonotis leonurus</i> , widely spreading branches, whorls of orange fuzzy flowers	Left side by cottage
Crown of Thorns, <i>Euphorbia milii</i> , succulent plant, dark green leaves grow along thick, thorny stems; red-orange flowers	Far end, past cottage, left side
<b>OUTSIDE WEST WING</b> <b>PROCEED AHEAD TO VISIT KROGER COMMUNITY KITCHEN GARDEN AND OUR DEMONSTRATION APIARY</b>	
<b>RETRACE STEPS</b> <b>FROM CONSERVATORY PROCEED DOWN STEPS TO</b>	
<b>FOUNTAIN GARDEN</b> <b><i>These beds are in transition to Fall plantings</i></b>	
<b>TURN LEFT ALONG TRIANGLE BEDS</b> <b>FOUNTAIN GARDEN</b> <b>Lower Level</b>	
Crape Myrtle, <i>Lagerstroemia</i> 'Lipan', bright lavender blooms above mottled silver trunks	Throughout
<b>AT INTERSECTION TURN RIGHT TOWARD EDUCATION CENTER, THEN LEFT TO ENTER</b>	
<b>MEDITATION GARDEN</b> <b>RIGHT OF PATH</b>	
Angel's Trumpet, <i>Brugmansia</i> cv., Tall stems with dangling yellow trumpet flowers emerging along stems	Right front corner bed
*Smooth Aster, <i>Symphyotrichum laeve</i> var. <i>laeve</i> 'Bluebird', loose panicle like clusters of 1" flowers with violet blue rays and yellow centers	Throughout
<b>MEDICINAL GARDEN</b> <b>LEFT OF PATH</b>	
Goldenrod, <i>Solidago rugosa</i> 'Fireworks', sprays of arching golden yellow flower stems	Left front bed
*Ornamental Pepper, <i>Capsicum annuum</i> 'Black Pearl', clusters of black berries above dark purple foliage, tiny lavender flowers	Center rear bed
<b>WALK STRAIGHT INTO</b>	
<b>FOUR SEASONS GARDEN</b>	
Cape Leadwort, <i>Plumbago auriculata</i> , small shrub with blue flowers in clumps above bright green foliage	Left bed
Reed Grass, <i>Calamagrostis x acutiflora</i> 'Karl Foerster', ornamental grass with erect clumps of narrow, flattened, green leaves, tall feather plumes	Throughout
Yellow Patrinia, <i>Patrinia scabiosifolia</i> , umbels of chrome yellow above ferny foliage	Right bed
Goldenrod, <i>Solidago sphacelata</i> 'Golden Fleece', low compact plant with sprays of bright yellow flowers on plume-like panicles	Right side in front of iron fence
Bush Clover, <i>Lespedeza thunbergii</i> 'Alba', arching fountain-like habit, small white flowers on pendulous panicles	Right side in front of iron fence
<b>RETURN TO THE VISITOR CENTER</b> <b>OR ADD</b>	
<b>ASIAN VALLEY LOOP</b>	

TAKE NOTE OF THE VARIETY OF FOLIAGE COLORS AND TEXTURES CHARACTERISTIC OF AN ASIAN GARDEN	
AT THE INTERSECTION, TURN LEFT WALKING ALONG LAKE.	
* <b>Goldenrod, <i>Solidago rugosa</i> 'Fireworks'</b> , sprays of arching, golden yellow flower stems	Left of path on hillside
Weeping Katsura Tree, <i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i> f. <i>pendulum</i> , small tree with heart-shaped blue-green leaves aging to peach, smell of burnt sugar	Right of path
Sedum, <i>Hylotelephium spectabile</i> 'Frosty Morn', Flat clusters of lime-green flowers aging to cream, fleshy leaves	Left of path
AT THE INTERSECTION TURN RIGHT	
THEN TURN LEFT DOWN THE WINDING PATH	
Fringe Flower, <i>Loropetalum chinense</i> Razzleberri <sup>R</sup> 'Monraz', large shrub with clusters of raspberry red fringed flowers	Left of path
Japanese Persimmon, <i>Diospyros kaki</i> 'Korean', small tree with abundant bright orange-yellow fruit	Left of path
Windflower, <i>Anemone hupehensis</i> , five-petal pearl-pink flowers around golden centers on long arching stems	Left of path
* <b>Obedient Plant, <i>Physostegia virginiana</i> 'Vivid'</b> , tall spikes of pink tubular flowers rise above sharply toothed leaves	Left of path at intersection
<b>WEST ISLAND GARDEN</b> <b>A WETLAND ECOSYSTEM</b>	
Winterberry, <i>Ilex verticillata</i> 'Winter Red', tall shrub with orange-red berries	Throughout
* <b>Beauty Berry, <i>Callicarpa dichotoma</i></b> , shrub with vivid purple berries along arching stems	Left of walkway
Goldenrod, <i>Solidago shortii</i> 'Solar Cascade', sprays of bright yellow flowers along arching stems above deep green foliage	Right of walkway
Knotweed, <i>Polygonum odoratum</i> 'Tricolor', tall perennial, frothy white flowers, leaves variegated, long stems	Left of path at end of boardwalk
Bush Clover, <i>Lespedeza thunbergii</i> 'Gibraltar', shrub with arching stems of blue-green foliage and vivid pink flowers	Across path at end of walkway
AT THE END OF THE BOARDWALK, TURN LEFT THEN	
TURN LEFT ON THE BRICK PATH TO ENTER	
Joan Van Arnam Memorial Walk	
AT THE INTERSECTION, BEAR RIGHT TO ENTER	
<b>FLAGER PERENNIAL GARDEN LOOP</b>	
BEAR RIGHT ONTO BRICK PATH	
Hostas and Ferns mingle with a wonderful variety of textures and colors.	Throughout
Look Left across the Stream, Note the Variety of Forms and Textures in the Grass Garden on the Berm	
* <b>Fountain Grass, <i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i> 'National Arboretum'</b> , deep purple and green plumes with lance-like leaves	Throughout
Rhododendron, <i>Rhododendron</i> 'August to Frost', azalea with white trumpet blossoms	Left of path
TURN LEFT AT THE WOODLAND WALK SIGN, TURN LEFT DOWN THE STAIRS	
Scaly Wood Fern, <i>Dryopteris polylepis</i> , three large stands of tall erect ferns	Right of path
CONTINUE ON PATH	
AT THE END OF THE PATH, TURN RIGHT, TO ENTER THE	
<b>GRACE ARENTS GARDEN</b> <b>A VICTORIAN STYLE GARDEN</b>	

A collection of annuals in pastel shades accented with lime green	Throughout
Japanese Rose, <i>Rosa rugosa</i> , showy orange-red fruit called “hips” follow blooms	Perimeter beds
<b>WALK PAST THE BRICK CIRCLE TO ENTER THE CHERRY TREE WALK</b>	
Gaura, <i>Gaura lindheimeri</i> ‘Rosyjane’, graceful wands of white blooms edged with candy pink	Throughout
Switchgrass, <i>Panicum virgatum</i> ‘Northwind’, olive green to blue-green grass topped by beige plumes	Left of path before tree house
Aster, <i>Symphyotrichum leave</i> var. <i>leave</i> ‘Bluebird’, tall clump of starry violet/blue small “daisy” flowers with yellow centers	Left of path
Passion Flower, <i>Passiflora</i> ‘Incense’, vine climbs by tendrils, frilly fragrant flowers with creamy protruding center and many lavender petals	Right side, vining on fence
*Pineapple Sage, <i>Salvia elegans</i> , tall shrubby plant with lipstick red tubular flowers along stems	On left ,spilling onto path
<b>BEAR LEFT INTO LUCY PAYNE MINOR GARDEN</b>	
Panicle Hydrangea Vanilla Strawberry™, <i>Hydrangea paniculata</i> ‘Renhy’, light pink panicles on low mounding shrub maturing to strawberry red	Left of path
Panicle Hydrangea, <i>Hydrangea paniculata</i> ‘Ilvobo’, white fluffy panicles aging to beige on low mounding shrub	Left of path and throughout
<b>CONTINUE ON AGGREGATE WALK AROUND TO THE LEFT</b>	
Russian Sage, <i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i> , lavender flower spikes on billows of silvery foliage	Right of path
Bottlebrush Buckeye, <i>Aesculus parviflora</i> , large shrub with palmate leaves and emerging brown fig-shaped fruit	Right of path
<b>VIENNA COBB ANDERSON MEADOW AND CONSTRUCTED WETLAND</b>	
Spend a minute taking in the variety of color and texture in our densely planted meadow. Birds and pollinators appreciate the abundance of food and shelter that the plants provide	
+Goldenrod, <i>Solidago canadensis</i> , abundant drifts of tall plants with bright golden yellow flowers	Throughout
Brown-eyed Susan, <i>Rudbeckia triloba</i> , 3-4 foot, many small bright yellow daisies with dark brown centers, densely-branched	Throughout
Doll’s Eyes, <i>Boltonia</i> sp., big display of tall white daisy-like flowers, popular with several kinds of bees, including honeybees	Throughout
Holly, <i>Ilex verticillata</i> ‘Winter’s Gold’, tall deciduous shrub with golden berries	Left of path along the lake
<b>LOUISE COCHRANE ROSE GARDEN</b> <b>Directions are from the labyrinth, facing the lake</b>	
Rosa, ‘Oso Easy Double Red’, Shrub, Warner, 3-4’, double red self-cleaning shrub, slightly glossy foliage	Right side, along main path and in pots
Rosa, ‘Ruby Vigorosa’, Floribunda, Kordes, 3-4’ double ruffle, crimson	Right side, along main path
Rosa, ‘White Out’, Shrub, Radler, 1-2’, single white, opening to pale yellow, glossy foliage has burgundy hue in the Fall	Around perimeter of inner loop
Rosa, ‘Oso Easy Paprika’, Shrub, Warner, 2-3’, single apricot to orange with yellow center, glossy foliage	Outer loop, left side
<b>EXIT THE ROSE GARDEN, TURN RIGHT ON THE AGGREGATE PATH</b>	

<b>MAIN GARDEN PATH</b> <b><i>Bold-colored annuals are transitioning to Fall plantings</i></b>	
Dwarf Crape Myrtle, <i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> 'Gamad1' RAZZLE DAZZLE CHERRY, low-growing prostrate shrub with crimson panicles	Triangle bed opposite Lotus Bridge
Windflower, <i>Anemone hupehensis</i> , drifts of five-petal flowers in shades of pink on long arching stems	Left of path on berm
Kalimeris, <i>Kalimeris mongolica</i> , white button flowers on lime green stems	Left of path
THE VISITOR CENTER IS STRAIGHT AHEAD ON THE LEFT	