

Bright Spots



Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

A SELF GUIDED WALKING TOUR

December 20, 2017

The berries displayed on the garden's deciduous and evergreen hollies are providing plenty of winter color now even when the holiday lights are not glimmering. Several examples are listed below, along the Lake Walk, the Main Garden Path and in the West Island Garden. These "bright spots" are not confined within the gates, however. Visitors who park in Lot B will be welcomed by a group of three Green (or Southern) Hawthorns, *Crataegus viridis* 'Winter King', sporting clusters of splendid bright red berries.

Hawthorns are native in Virginia and the eastern United States. The genus name derives from the Greek, *kratos*, strength, referring to the hardness of the wood. The species (Latin for green) was named by Linnaeus in 1753 from a specimen sent from Virginia with shiny green foliage. "Winter King" is a cultivated variety that is almost free of the thorns that gave this small tree its common name.

These trees have been in their challenging location (parking lot island) since 2000, thus proving that they are hardy under some rather unpromising conditions. They have achieved their mature height and exhibit a graceful horizontal spread. The exfoliating bark also provides winter interest.

The berries will last into February (gradually turning black) if not eaten by birds. They are edible for humans, but no sources were enthusiastic about this possibility. Tea made from the fruit was used as a heart tonic in Native American, Indian, Chinese and European folk medicine.

Sources: <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=c410>; *Peterson Field Guides, Eastern/Central Medicinal Plants*, S. Foster, p. 236; *Field Guide to North American Trees*, E. L. Little, p. 488; *Flora of Virginia*, p.873.

***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
CENTRAL GARDEN and CONSERVATORY LOOP	
FOUNTAIN TERRACE	
Christmas Rose, <i>Helleborus niger</i> 'Joseph Lempereur', white blossoms maturing to green above large deep green leaves	Right front bed, Café side
OUTSIDE THE GATES TURN LEFT	
TURN RIGHT TO ENTER	

GEORGE BRAGDON DAFFODIL GARDEN	
Winterberry, <i>Ilex</i> 'Winter Gold', tall shrub with abundant gold berries	Left of arch
RETURN TO THE BRICK PATH, TURN RIGHT TO	
EAST and WEST TRIANGLE BEDS	
<i>Fall plantings</i>	
FOUNTAIN GARDEN	
Upper Level	
Muhly Grass, <i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i> 'White Cloud', fine wiry grass clump with fog of white/lime green seed heads	East and west side
<i>Cornus sericea</i> 'Arctic Fire™', multi-stemmed shrub with upright bright red stems	Pots on either side of the steps
CONTINUE UP THE STEPS TO THE CONSERVATORY	
Ravenna Grass, <i>Saccharum ravennae</i> , very tall, erect, clump-forming grass	Outside corners, rear of bed
Conservatory Ponds	
Egyptian Papyrus, <i>Cyperus papyrus</i> , tall straight stems with globe of green "threads" on top	Throughout
CONSERVATORY	
Palm House	
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
Bromeliad, <i>Aechmea</i> 'Loie's Pride', tall spikes of bright orange bracts above long glossy strappy foliage	Throughout
Calla Lily, <i>Zantedeschia</i> , vase shaped flowers in shades of purple, bright pink and variegated white and blush over triangular leaves	Small pots throughout
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
Bromeliad, <i>Portea</i> 'Jungles', large rosette of stiff leaves, tall coral flower spikes with purple tips	Left corner
East Wing	
Enjoy an abundance of Orchids	
Corsage Orchid, <i>Cattleya</i> , a variety of large white blossoms with yellow throats	Right side, pots behind ledge
Lei Orchid, <i>Dendrobium</i> Hybrids, stalks with multiple blossoms in shades of lavender and purple	Right side, multiple pots behind ledge
Dancing Lady, <i>Oncidium</i> Orchid 'Sweet Sugar', bright yellow lip resembling a skirt with orange and brown marked sepals and petals	Right side, multiple post
<i>Epicanthe</i> 'Don Herman', tall stalks with multiple light orange blossoms with streak of red on the lip	Right side across from grotto
Lei Orchid, <i>Dendrobium</i> Jaq-Hawaii 'Uniwai Pearl', five petal pure white flowers	Left side, multiple pots by grotto
Dancing Lady, <i>Oncidium</i> Sharry Baby 'Red Fantasy', dark reddish purple flowers, very fragrant with a chocolate scent	Right side, multiple pots
Pink Wild Pear, <i>Dombeya burgessiae</i> 'Seminole', shrub with clusters of pink flowers and large pale green leaves with prominent veins	Left side
West Wing	

Ellemeet's Agave, <i>Agave ellemeetiana</i> , huge specimen with gracefully curving leaves, from the cloud forests of Mexico near Oaxaca	Left of entrance
Passion Flower, <i>Passiflora vitifolia</i> , multiple vines covered with brilliant red flowers	Left side, over trellis
<i>Oxalis triangularis</i> 'Mijke', vibrant burgundy/purple leaf plant with pink flowers	Throughout
Aloe Hybrid 'Grassy Lassie TM ', low plant with blade-shaped leaves and spikes of pale orange blossoms edged in cream and green	Left side, far end
* Century Plant, <i>Agave titanota</i> , rosette of blade shaped thorny leaves edged in white. Exceptionally tall flower spike about to open. Plants in this family only bloom once. If pollinated it will set seeds before dying.	Right of path near the back door
OUTSIDE WEST WING	
PROCEED AHEAD TO VISIT KROGER COMMUNITY KITCHEN GARDEN AND OUR DEMONSTRATION APIARY	
RETRACE STEPS	
FROM CONSERVATORY PROCEED DOWN STEPS TO	
FOUNTAIN GARDEN	
AT INTERSECTION TURN RIGHT TOWARD EDUCATION CENTER, THEN LEFT TO ENTER	
MEDITATION GARDEN	
RIGHT OF PATH	
MEDICINAL GARDEN	
LEFT OF PATH	
WALK STRAIGHT INTO	
FOUR SEASONS GARDEN	
Winterberry, <i>Ilex verticillata</i> 'Winter Red', tall shrub with lance-shaped leaves and dark red berries	Right rear bed
Reed Grass, <i>Calamagrostis x acutiflora</i> 'Karl Foerster', ornamental grass with erect clumps of narrow, flattened, green leaves, tall feather plumes	Throughout
Red-Twig Dogwood, <i>Cornus alba</i> 'Elegantissima', small shrub with blood red stems	Right front bed
Oregon Grape, <i>Mahonia x media</i> 'Underway', tall shrub with lime green flower sprays opening to bright yellow, serrated leaves with spiny thorns	Right front bed
Cypress, <i>Chamaecyparis obtusa</i> 'Filicoides Aurea', small shrub with bright green and yellow foliage on russet stems	In pots on either side of pathway
RETURN TO THE VISITOR CENTER OR ADD	
ASIAN VALLEY LOOP	
TAKE NOTE OF THE VARIETY OF FOLIAGE COLORS AND TEXTURES CHARACTERISTIC OF AN ASIAN GARDEN	
Lily of China, <i>Rohdea japonica</i> , dark green elongated leaves, red berries somewhat hidden at the base of the plant	Left of path
Sawara Cypress, <i>Chamaecyparis pisifera</i> 'Filifera Aurea', mounded shrub of threadleaf golden foliage	Straight ahead at the bottom of the path
AT THE INTERSECTION, TURN LEFT, WALK ALONG THE LAKE	
AT THE INTERSECTION TURN RIGHT, THEN LEFT DOWN THE WINDING PATH	
WEST ISLAND GARDEN	
A WETLAND ECOSYSTEM	
Swamp Cypress, <i>Taxodium distichum</i> , tall deciduous conifer with rusty bronze foliage slowly falling to reveal striking branch structure	Throughout
Winterberry, <i>Ilex verticillata</i> 'Winter Red', tall shrub with orange-red berries	Throughout

AT THE END OF THE BOARDWALK, TURN LEFT THEN	
AT THE INTERSECTION, BEAR RIGHT TO ENTER	
FLAGER PERENNIAL GARDEN LOOP	
BEAR RIGHT ONTO BRICK PATH	
Winter Hardy Ferns create a wonderful variety of textures and colors.	Throughout
<i>Ilex opaca</i> f. <i>xanthocarpa</i> , tall evergreen holly with dark green spiny leaves, abundant clusters of gold berries	Right of path at intersection
* Fountain Grass, <i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i> ‘National Arboretum’, deep purple and green plumes with lance-like leaves	Throughout
TURN LEFT AT THE WOODLAND WALK SIGN, TURN LEFT DOWN THE STAIRS	
CONTINUE ON PATH	
<i>Jasminum nudiflorum</i> , swath of low, sprawling shrubs with pale rose buds opening to yellow trumpet flowers, fragrant	Both sides of path
AT THE END OF THE PATH, TURN LEFT	
WALK PAST THE BRICK CIRCLE TO ENTER THE CHERRY TREE WALK	
Snowdrop Anemone, <i>Anemone sylvestris</i> , delicate small white petals with yellow stamens over palmate green leaves, fluffy cotton-like seed heads	Left side under the Treehouse
BEAR LEFT INTO LUCY PAYNE MINOR GARDEN	
Lily of the Valley Bush, <i>Pieris japonica</i> ‘Valley Rose’, cluster of shrubs with delicate sprays of rose pink buds opening to white pendulous flowers	Right of path, near Rustic Gazebo
CONTINUE ON AGGREGATE WALK AROUND TO THE LEFT	
VIENNA COBB ANDERSON MEADOW AND CONSTRUCTED WETLAND	
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	
Japanese Winterberry, <i>Ilex serrata</i> ‘Sparkleberry’, tall deciduous shrubs developed at the National Arboretum with striking display of brilliant red berries	Left of path along lake
Holly, <i>Ilex</i> x ‘Hoogendorn’, tall deciduous shrub with leathery oval leaves, heavily loaded with red berries	Left of path along lake
LOUISE COCHRANE ROSE GARDEN Blooms have ended for the season. Enjoy the view across the lake	
EXIT THE ROSE GARDEN, TURN RIGHT ON THE AGGREGATE PATH	
MAIN GARDEN PATH Fall plantings	
Magnolia, <i>Magnolia</i> x ‘Sundance’, tall tree with fuzzy gray buds like catkins that will open to pale yellow flowers	Left of path
Japanese Maple, <i>Acer palmatum</i> ‘Sangu-Kaku’, multi-stemmed tree with v-shaped habit, distinctive coral-red winter bark, color intensifies in cold weather	Left of path at the top of the hill
Bloodtwig Dogwood, <i>Cornus sanguinea</i> , vivid red twigs on multi-stemmed shrub; color brightest on new growth	Left of path deep in the bed
Winterberry, <i>Ilex verticillata</i> ‘Winter Gold’, group of tall shrubs with abundant gold berries	Left of path
THE VISITOR CENTER IS STRAIGHT AHEAD ON THE LEFT	