









BRIGHT SPOTS

CURRENT GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS

May 20, 2019

+ = Native Plant

Four Seasons Garden – Bragdon, Healing Garden, Fountain Garden, Flagler Garden, Cherry Tree Walk	<p>+Yarrow, <i>Achillea</i> sp. Native to North America, Europe, and Asia, yarrow honors Achilles who used the medicinal herb to heal wounds. ‘Coronation Gold’ produces flat clusters of “a thousand” yellow flowers from now until September, but check the Garden’s numerous subfamilies and cultivars that would color a rainbow. Perfect for Richmond, yarrow grows well in dry, lean soil, loves humidity, attracts butterflies, is fragrant and deters deer.</p>	
Conservatory – Outside West End	<p>Jaboticaba, <i>Plinia cauliflora</i>. A native of Brazil, this highly-branched tree produces fruit on the old growth of its large stems and trunk. The blackish-purple fruit has a thick skin and a whitish pulp that taste similar to a muscadine grape. In southern California, Jaboticaba are grown as a “rare fruit.” Because the picked fruit lasts about 4 days, it is quickly converted to delicious jellies, jams and wine.</p>	
Kroger Community Kitchen Garden	<p>Veggies, Herbs and Flowers. Our motto - “Grow, Share, Teach” – guides planting and there is a reason for everything. Bright flowers attract useful pollinators. Plants with strong odors – think marigolds – repel pests, even rabbits. Mixing plants with different growth patterns maximizes space. And, ladybugs reduce harmful insects. Our pesticide-free garden provides produce to FeedMore and other agencies.</p>	
Four Seasons Garden – Bragdon, Healing Garden, West Island Garden, Throughout	<p>Beardtongue, <i>Penstemon</i> sp., is a garden star. This hardy plant (Zones 3-8) looks quite delicate with its tall red stems of dainty pale flowers held above a mound of maroon foliage. The distinctive color is an interesting pop amongst the greens of spring and summer borders. The blooms are good for cutting and they attract butterflies and hummingbirds. ‘Husker Red’ variety was named Plant of the Year in 1996 and is said to be deer resistant and drought tolerant.</p>	

<p>Asian Valley, Flagler – Joan Van Arnum Walk, Cherry Tree Walk, Throughout</p>	<p>False Goat's Beard or False Spirea, <i>Astilbe</i> sp. This carefree, pest-resistant, shade perennial sends up plumes of white, pink, raspberry or red flowers above fern-like basal leaves during late spring. Especially showy is this pink patch of <i>A. japonica</i> 'Peach Blossom' in Flagler. Also, look for 'Bridal Veil', 'Montgomery' and 'Ostrich Plume' in woodland areas. The cut flowers last just as long indoors.</p>	
<p>Asian Valley, Flagler Garden, White Garden</p>	<p>Mother of Thousands, <i>Saxifraga stolonifera</i>, goes by many common names but this one is especially fitting as its stolons spread the part shade groundcover plant around itself while keeping the “kids” close to home. During May, its tiny white flowers wave in cloudlike formations 18” above the lustrous heart-shaped, evergreen, white-veined green leaves. The wide swath along the path in the Asian Valley is a memorable sight.</p>	
<p>West Island Garden</p>	<p>+Pitcher Plant, <i>Sarracenia</i> sp. Many of our 20 varieties of these beautiful carnivorous plants are in bloom right now. The intriguing umbrella like flowers, on tall thin stalks, float above the “pitchers” that are emerging. Wetland habitat for these natives is disappearing and thus the plants are too. Look for <i>S. leucophylla</i> 'Titan'. While the large, colorfully veined white pitchers are prized (and often illegally poached), the Titan's blooms are a stunning deep red.</p>	
<p>Flagler Garden – Dot's Garden & White Garden, Grace Arent's Garden –</p>	<p>+Magnolia, <i>Magnolia</i> sp. Our Garden abounds with the sweetly scented creamy blossoms of magnolias. In Grace's Garden, the iconic Southern Magnolia, <i>M. grandiflora</i>, is attributed to Charles Gillette. Dot's Garden is home to <i>M. macrophylla</i>, the Big Leaf Magnolia, which boasts the largest simple leaves among native species. Unlike other magnolias, the Sweet Bay Magnolia, <i>M. virginiana</i>, tolerates swampy conditions.</p>	
<p>Louise Cochrane Rose Garden</p>	<p>Roses, <i>Rosa</i> cv. This past winter, the rose bed along the main walkway was rejuvenated using deeply dug soil amended with leaf mulch and wood chips. One end is planted with red OSO Easy roses and the other has 'Coral' and 'Peachy' Knock Out and 'At Last' shrub roses, along with the towering red 'Liebeszauber' hybrid tea rose. The row of contrasting blue 'Walker's Low' catmint protects us from thorns as we enjoy a rose's fragrance.</p>	