





# BRIGHT SPOTS

## CURRENT GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS

July 22, 2019

+ Virginia Native Plant

<p><b>North Terrace - Containers</b></p>	<p><b>Rex Begonia Vine, <i>Cissus discolor</i>.</b> Although this vine has showy leaves, as does a Rex Begonia, it belongs to the Vitaceae family, which includes ivy and grapevines. In pots, this SE Asian native grows about 3 ft.; however, its bright red tendrils enable it to climb and it can cover arbors. Plant in partial to full shade and in moist well-drained soil. To propagate, take summer cuttings and over-winter inside.</p>	
<p><b>Four Seasons Garden &amp; Throughout</b></p>	<p><b>+Coneflower, <i>Echinacea spp.</i></b> The Garden hosts many of the 11 species and hybrids of this native - favored by birds, bees and butterflies. The colorful, soft drooping ray florets have contrasting spiky (echinos means sea urchin in Greek) orange cone seeds and florets, making this easy-to-grow plant especially attractive during its 2-months of bloom. Roots and leaves were used as immunostimulants and medicinal cures by Native Americans, as they are today.</p>	
<p><b>Central Garden - Containers</b></p>	<p><b>Lotus, <i>Nelumbo spp.</i></b> Fortunately, the containers enable you to view this aquatic plant up-close. <i>N.</i> 'Giant Sunburst' has yellow blossoms while <i>N.</i> 'Beautiful Dancer' has blush-white petals with dark-pink tips. All the blooms are fragrant. Native Americans ate the leaves and swollen underground stems (tubers) – think spinach and sweet potatoes. The striking seed heads grow larger as they mature. Called 'alligator corn', the seeds are edible and can be ground into flour. To grow, provide calm water and rich soil.</p>	
<p><b>West Island, Cherry Tree Walk &amp; Throughout</b></p>	<p><b>Hardy Hibiscus or Swamp Rose Mallow, <i>Hibiscus mocheutos cv.</i></b> Crimson-eyed blossoms in white and pinks cover plants that can reach 7-ft. and form hedges. Butterflies are attracted to the showy column with its heavy pollen. Native to wet areas, and hardy in Zones 5-9, <i>Hibiscus cv.</i> works well in low spots. Full sun, circulating air and consistently moist soil produce the best plants. Plant Explorer lists thirteen <i>Hibiscus</i> species and cultivars.</p>	

<p><b>West Island &amp; Throughout</b></p>	<p>+ <b>Joe Pye Weed, <i>Eupatorium</i> spp.</b> Domes of mauve-purple flowers, filled with nectar and pollen, attract many pollinators including monarch butterflies and honey bees. This herbaceous perennial is deer resistant and works well in borders and naturalized areas. Garden Explorer lists more than ten varieties which can be easily grown in full to partial shade and moist soils – keep their feet wet!</p>	
<p><b>Lucy Payne Minor Garden, Four Seasons Garden &amp; Throughout</b></p>	<p><b>Smooth Hydrangea, <i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>,</b> an Eastern US native, prefers a shady location with consistent moisture. Bloom occurs on new wood so these plants almost never have damage from a harsh winter or late frost. Current blooming cultivars in the garden include the white-transitioned-to-green mophead ‘Annabelle’ (Minor) and the lacecap flowered ‘Haas Halo’ (Four Seasons).</p>	
<p><b>Lucy Payne Minor, Flagler, Cherry Tree Walk, Upper Fountain &amp; Four Seasons Garden</b></p>	<p><b>Panicle or PeeGee Hydrangea, <i>Hydrangea paniculata</i> cv.,</b> blooms on new growth and therefore appears now, late in the season. You can't miss 'Vanilla Strawberry' pictured here (Minor), but look for many of the white panicle cultivars such as ‘Pink Diamond’ (Main Garden Walk) and ‘Limelight’ (Flagler). This species survives wide temperature ranges and is the most sun tolerant of the genus. While not pH dependent for color, PeeGees age to pink when in full sun.</p>	
<p><b>Triangle Bed Near Lotus Bridge &amp; Throughout</b></p>	<p><b>Dwarf Crape Myrtle, <i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> ‘Gamad I’ Cherry Dazzle.</b> This Crape, so tiny you may not recognize as one, is perfect for viewing the rose crepe-papery blossoms up close. In contrast, the towering <i>L. indica</i> ‘Lipan’ in the Fountain Garden and <i>L. indica</i> ‘Potomac’ in Flagler reach 15- 20 ft. These Asian natives need full-sun and moist, but well-drained soils. Crapees bloom on new wood, so prune in late winter or early spring and provide slow-release fertilizer.</p>	
<p><b>Main Garden Walk &amp; Flagler Garden</b></p>	<p><b>Black-eyed Susan, Yellow Cone Flower, <i>Rudbeckia</i> spp.</b> Many of the 15 different species listed in Plant Explorer some are Virginia natives. These hardy perennials are long blooming. The yellow daisy-like flowers are attractive to pollinators and can tolerate hot, humid weather. <i>R. laciniata</i> 'Herbstsonne' Autumn Sun™ features intriguing green “eyes”. Plant taller varieties at the back of the border.</p>	