

BRIGHT SPOTS

CURRENT GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS

February 17, 2020

+ Virginia Native Plant

<p>North Terrace & Throughout</p>	<p><i>Helleborus cv.</i> Known as Christmas Rose or Lenten Rose there are many evergreen cultivars on the market today. The cupped flowers, subtly colored green, white, purple or cream, open on 2- to 3-inch stems. The blooms are long lasting, both on the plant and, when cut early in the blooming season, in arrangements. Hellebores prefer partial shade and fertile soil, will slowly spread to create clumps and will produce seedlings near the mother plants. Hellebores are unattractive to deer, rabbits and snails.</p>	
<p>North Terrace, Flagler – Dot’s Garden</p>	<p>Winter Daphne, <i>Daphne odora</i>. A native of China and Japan, Winter Daphnes are small shrubs with dark glossy, leathery leaves and intensely fragrant reddish-purple flowers. Best grown in moist, rich, well-drained soil and part shade to shade. Full sun will burn foliage in hot climates. Plant near entrances and walkways where the fragrance can be enjoyed. Can be temperamental to grow but worth the effort.</p>	
<p>Asian Valley – Upper Walkway, Flagler</p>	<p>Witch Hazel, <i>Hamamelis x intermedia</i> ‘Diane’ is a medium sized, deciduous shrub that is noted for spidery, often fragrant flowers that emerge before the foliage. ‘Diane’ has brilliant coppery red flowers. This cultivar was created by a Belgian couple and named for their daughter. Hardy in Zones 5-8, it is undaunted by snow and ice. 1993 Royal Horticultural Society Award of Garden Merit Plant, reconfirmed in 2005</p>	
<p>Asian Valley, Flagler</p>	<p>Paper Bush, <i>Edgeworthia cv.</i> is heralding spring, sporting clusters of tiny cream and gold trumpets dangling from dark bare branches. The blooms fill the air with intoxicating fragrance, alerting winter pollinators to a feasting opportunity. The inner bark was used to make paper in its native China, hence the common name. This shrub will do well in Virginia when provided with some shade and rich soil.</p>	

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<p>Upper Asian Valley</p>	<p>Bell-flowered Cherry, <i>Prunus campanulate</i> 'Okame' is a small deciduous tree with a rounded canopy. One of the earliest blooming of the flowering cherries it's noted for its abundant rosy pink, mildly fragrant flowers and cold tolerance. Introduced in 1947, 'Okame' received the Royal Horticultural Society Award of Garden Merit. Grow in moist, well-drained soil with full sun for best flowering.</p>	
<p>Upper Asian Valley</p>	<p>Bridal Wreath, <i>Spiraea thunbergii</i> 'Ogon' is flush with delicate white flowers pouring down its gracefully arched stems. The genus is from the Greek for 'wreath'. The golden color of the young leaves explains this cultivar's name; "Ogon" means gold in Japanese. Maturing leaves turn green and then orange in Fall. <i>Spiraea thunbergii</i> are native to China and Japan. This hardy deciduous shrub matures to 5'-6' height and width.</p>	
<p>Lower Asian Valley, Lucy P. Minor</p>	<p>Flowering Quince, <i>Chaenomeles japonica</i> cv. Both cultivars of this thorny & twisted shrub grow scarlet, red and white flowers that could pass for apple blossoms. The blooms seem to float in the air because they appear before the leaves. The branches of <i>C. japonica</i> 'Contorta' in Asian Valley are an Ikebana enthusiast's dream whereas 'Toyo Nishiki' is so floriferous that it could be mistaken for a fluffy cloud fallen to earth. Force blooms indoors in February.</p>	
<p>Flagler – Dot's Garden</p>	<p>Star Anise, <i>Illicium anisatum</i> 'Pink Stars' an understory shrub is happiest in the dappled shade of a woodland garden. Notable for its dark green glossy leaves and star shaped flowers that emerge pink and mature to creamy white. Unlike many early bloomers, these flowers are not fragrant. Do not confuse this with Chinese star anise, the culinary spice. All parts of this plant are highly toxic; the seeds can be used as a natural pesticide.</p>	
<p>Cherry Tree Walk, Children's Garden</p>	<p>Cornleain Cherry, <i>Cornus mas</i>. A member of the dogwood family, this small tree produces rather dense, rounded, bright yellow flower clusters on short stalks. The common name refers to the fruit, which is a bright red, resembling the color of the gemstone carnelian (or cornelian). It is edible, though tart, and can be used to make preserves. The genus name comes from the Latin word "horn" which refers to the dense, strong wood.</p>	