









BRIGHT SPOTS

CURRENT GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS

July 20, 2020

+ Virginia Native Plant

North Terrace - Containers	<p>Pineapple, <i>Ananas comosus</i>, from the Bromeliad family, is a native of Brazil, valued for its tropical fruit and landscape interest. Pineapples were first seen by Columbus in 1493 and later distributed around the world by tall sailing ships. Greenhouses allowed pineapples to be grown throughout Europe in the 1700s. You can propagate pineapples by removing the leafy crown and planting in moist potting soil. Keep the temperature above 60 degrees and be patient!</p>	
Four Seasons Garden & Throughout	<p>+Coneflower, <i>Echinacea spp.</i> The Garden hosts many of the 11 species and hybrids of this native plant which is favored by birds, bees and butterflies. The colorful, soft drooping ray florets have contrasting spiky (<i>echinos</i> 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>	
Upper Fountain Garden & Throughout	<p>Hardy Hibiscus or Swamp Rose Mallow, <i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i> 'Cranberry Crush'. Dinner-plate sized blossoms in whites, pinks and reds cover plants that can reach 7 ft. and form hedges. Native to wet areas, and hardy in Zones 5-9, <i>Hibiscus</i> cv. works well in low spots. Full sun, circulating air and consistently moist soil produce the best plants. The Garden's database lists 13 different cultivars.</p>	
Conservatory - Ponds	<p>Santa Cruz Water Lily, <i>Victoria cruziana</i>. The huge floating leaves of this tropical water lily look like round trays with turned up edges. Leaves can reach 4'-6' across. Note the thorns rimming the bottom edge (and underside). Their strong pineapple-scented blooms attract the particular beetle that pollinates it. The night blooming flowers last only two nights, opening white the first night and pink the second. Visit early in the morning to catch ours open.</p>	

<p>Four Seasons Garden & Fountain Garden – Upper and Lower</p>	<p>Ornamental Millet, <i>Pennisetum glaucum</i>, ‘Copper Prince’ is a unique accent plant that makes a dramatic statement in the garden landscape. The interesting texture is favored by garden designers and floral arrangers. The leaves start as a light caramel color, deepening to copper as it sends up rosy foxtail panicles. It’s the very picture of an ornamental grass! After frost, plant in a sunny area with well-drained soil.</p>	
<p>Flagler Garden & Cherry Tree Walk</p>	<p>+Cup Plant, <i>Silphium perfoliatum</i>. The square stems appear to grow through the leaf, hence the species name. The “cup” that results catches rain, a boon for birds. The genus name refers to the resinous sap, which was used by Native Americans as a chewing gum to freshen breath and prevent nausea. Plant in groups to support these tall plants from drooping. Plants in the genus <i>Silphium</i> prefer moist locations and full sun.</p>	
<p>Lucy Payne Minor Garden, Flagler Garden & Throughout</p>	<p>Hydrangea, <i>Hydrangea</i> spp. are currently proving their multi-season appeal. The mopheads of +<i>H. arborescens</i> cultivar ‘Annabelle’ have transitioned from fresh white to startling green; Oakleaf hydrangea’s (+<i>H. quercifolia</i>) long cone shaped blooms have turned to dusty rose, while <i>H. paniculata</i> 'ILVOBO' Bobo® is still sporting fresh white blooms. Hydrangeas prefer moist, well-drained soil and part shade.</p>	
<p>Cherry Tree Walk – Sydnor Lake</p>	<p>+Eastern Redbud, <i>Cercis canadensis</i> cv. A sign of spring, this native small tree blooms in late March with rosy purple flowers that emerge along leafless branches. <i>Cercis</i> refers to the long seed pods (now green) that resemble a shuttle used to weave yarn on a loom. The heart-shaped leaves on some varieties are deep purple. Others are variegated. Those in this photo are green, turning to luscious yellow & then to apricot as autumn approaches.</p>	
<p>Flagler Garden & Main Garden Walk</p>	<p>+Black-eyed Susan, Yellow Cone Flower, <i>Rudbeckia</i> spp. More than 15 different species are listed in Plant Explorer. Many are Virginia natives. <i>R. laciniata</i> 'Herbstsonne' Autumn Sun™ features intriguing green “eyes”. These hardy perennials are long blooming; the yellow daisy-like flowers are attractive to pollinators; and, they tolerate hot, humid weather. Plant taller varieties at the back of the border.</p>	