

# BRIGHT SPOTS

## CURRENT GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS

October 19, 2020

### + Virginia Native Plant

### \* Location of Bright Spots Sign

<p><b>* Terrace Garden, Asian Valley, Flagler Garden &amp; Streb Conifer Garden</b></p>	<p><b><i>Camellia sasanqua</i></b> This species camellias blooms in the autumn. Differing from the late winter blooming <i>C. japonica</i>, these plants are shorter, have smaller serrated leaves and possess flowers that are more delicate in both their single and double forms. The shrub is drought tolerant, likes full-to-partial sun in a rich soil and can be used as a hedge or pruned to a tree-form. Now is the time to view the varied cultivars around the Garden.</p>	
<p><b>Healing Garden, *Upper Fountain Gardens &amp; Throughout</b></p>	<p><b>Asters.</b> In Greek, aster means “star” and aptly describes flowers in the Family Asteraceae, which are sun-loving, drought resistant sources of fall pollen. <i>Symphotrichum oblongifolium</i> ‘October Skies’ is a lower and bushier plant with a bluer flower (Healing Garden) than is <i>Aster tataricus</i> ‘Jindai’ which stands straight and tall near the Lotus Bridge. The fragrant, more lavender <i>S. oblongifolium</i> ‘Raydon’s Favorite’, and other species, can be found in the Asian Valley and along the lake.</p>	
<p><b>* Fountain Garden - Upper</b></p>	<p><b>Cushion Mum, Hardy Chrysanthemum, <i>Chrysanthemum</i> ‘Yellow Sheffield’.</b> Linnaeus named these sturdy perennials from the Greek chrysos (gold) and anthemion (flower) in 1753. No longer just in shades of gold, (look for <i>D.</i> ‘Celo’s Pink’) mums provide pollinator loving beauty from October to frost. Cut the plant back by half in early summer &amp; it will bloom on short stems that won’t flop over. It is easy to root these cuttings in water and then share with friends.</p>	
<p><b>Conservatory - Atrium and East Wing</b></p>	<p><b><i>Anthurium andraeanum</i></b> is a cheery, exotic plant that offers glossy, green heart shaped leaves topped by heart shaped pink, red, or white long-lasting blooms. Native to Columbia and Ecuador it is a epiphytic perennial that can’t stand temperatures below 60 degrees. It’s been scientifically proven to scrub harmful indoor air pollution from homes and offices. This plant wants plenty of indirect bright light and prefers high humidity.</p>	

<p><b>*Asian Valley</b></p>	<p><b>Toad Lily, <i>Tricyrtis</i> spp.</b> The garden has several species of this Japanese native, a prime example of an autumn bloomer for woodland gardens. The common name may derive from the fact that the flowers are spotted, like toads. Especially attractive in the Richmond area, the delicate orchid-like blooms are unappealing to deer. It likes partial sun but does well in full shade and likes damp feet. It forms a clump that is easy to divide. Toad Lilies are hardy in zones 4-8.</p>	
<p><b>* Asian Valley</b></p>	<p><b>Persimmon Tree, <i>Diospyros kaki</i> ‘Korean’</b> is a small ornamental tree native to China and Korea and cultivated extensively in Japan. Fragrant non-showy flowers, creamy white female and pink toned male flowers, bloom in late spring. Edible fruit matures to bright orange in late fall and often persists on the tree in winter after leaf drop. Persimmons can be eaten whole, sliced or made into jams or jellies. LOOK UP!</p>	
<p><b>*West Island Garden</b></p>	<p><b>+Pitcher Plant, <i>Sarracenia</i> spp.</b> The dramatic trumpet shaped “pitchers” are NOT the flowers of this carnivorous plant, but the insect catching apparatus. Nectar glands on the lips and lid attract insects whose fate is sealed by slippery slopes ending in a pool of digestive enzymes, thus providing the plant with nitrogen. They are endangered natives, to North America and to Virginia (<i>S. flava</i> and <i>S. purpurea</i>).</p>	
<p><b>*Flagler Garden</b></p>	<p><b>Sweet Olive, <i>Osmanthus x fortunei</i>,</b> is a large fall-blooming shrub. With its serrated, glossy, evergreen leaves it is often mistaken for a holly. Most of the year <i>Osmanthus</i> provides a quiet backdrop for brightly colored neighbors. Right now, however, the fragrance of its abundant, tiny white flowers perfumes the surrounding area. <i>Osmanthus</i> is drought tolerant and deer resistant. It can grow to 20’ tall and as wide making it an excellent screening plant.</p>	
<p><b>Four Seasons Garden, West Island Garden, *Lake Walk, Main Garden Walk,</b></p>	<p><b>+Winterberry, <i>Ilex verticillata</i></b> is a native deciduous shrub that produces a crop of brightly colored berries that will persist into winter (hence the common name) and provides food for our feathered friends. Verticillata is Latin for “whorled” and refers to the arrangement of the berries around the stems. ‘Winter Red’ (photo) is a female cultivar noted for its heavy fruiting; a male holly is required for pollination. Look also for <i>I. verticillata</i> ‘Winter Gold’.</p>	