

# BRIGHT SPOTS

## CURRENT GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS

September 13, 2021

### + Virginia Native Plant

### \*Location of Bright Spots Sign

<p><b>*Four Seasons Garden, Upper Fountain Garden</b></p>	<p><b>Bluebeard, <i>Caryopteris × clandonensis</i></b> ‘<b>Longwood Blue</b>’. True blue flowers are always highly prized in the garden and this low shrub never disappoints. In the late summer, blue flowers resembling clouds of smoke grow along the stems. Brush your hand across the silver-gray foliage to release a lovely fragrance. This shrub is always covered with bees and other beneficial insects at work. It is one of their favorites too!</p>	
<p><b>*Upper Fountain, Conservatory Beds, Asian Valley, Grace Arents, and Anderson Meadow Gardens</b></p>	<p>+ <b>Goldenrod, <i>Solidago</i></b>. Sometimes mistaken for ragweed, <i>Solidago</i>'s pollen is heavy, sticky and not airborne, so it does not cause hay fever. Look for <i>S. sphacelata</i> ‘Golden Fleece’, more compact than the species (~1’ tall), and rough-goldenrod, <i>S. rugosa</i> ‘Fireworks’, with an airy, branching structure. Attractive to pollinators, goldenrod prefers full sun, and is drought tolerant. The genus name is Latin, “to make whole,” in reference to its medicinal properties.</p>	
<p><b>Conservatory Ponds</b></p>	<p><b>Santa Cruz water lily, <i>Victoria cruziana</i></b>. 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 last only two nights, opening white the first night and pink the second. The flowers are pollinated by water beetles that get trapped when the flower closes in the evening. Visit early in the morning to catch ours open.</p>	
<p><b>*Healing Garden, Asian Valley, West Island, Children’s Garden, Main Garden Walk</b></p>	<p>+ <b>Beautyberry, <i>Callicarpa americana</i></b>. A native, this deciduous shrub thrives in moist soil enriched with organic matter. Beautyberry grows in full sun or partial shade but will flower and fruit better with more sun. In late summer, the shrub’s insignificant flowers give way to stunning fruits (drupes) that start out green and ripen to bright violet. The plants are best sited at the back of the bed and are said to bear more fruit when several are planted together.</p>	

<p><b>*Asian Valley and Cherry Tree Walk</b></p>	<p>+ <b>Obedient plant, <i>Physostegia virginiana</i></b> ‘Vivid’. The bright pinkish lavender flowers of this cultivar are indeed ‘Vivid.’ The common name derives from its willingness to briefly retain position when the flower is pushed to one side. These long-lived flowers, which are good for cutting, provide nectar for hummingbirds and butterflies. Plants prefer moist, acidic, well-drained soil, although they will tolerate clay soil. An added benefit - it is deer resistant.</p>	
<p><b>*Main Garden Walk, Asian Valley, Flagler Garden &amp; Throughout</b></p>	<p><b>Japanese windflower, <i>Anemone hupehensis</i></b>, is a native of the Chinese province Hupeh. Victorian plant hunter Robert Fortune introduced it to Europe in 1844. This perennial is anchored by a basal rosette of dark green leaves and has shallow saucer-like flowers in pink or white, single or double, which sway in the breeze at the end of long wiry stems. Plant in a protected location with soft shade and moist fertile soil.</p>	
<p><b>*Flagler Garden</b></p>	<p><b>Red spider lily, <i>Lycoris radiata</i></b> grows from a perennial bulb that produces long-lasting, showy blooms on naked stems in late summer. After the flowers fade, strap-like leaves appear and remain all winter, evergreen, before disappearing in the spring. The sterile plants reproduce by bulb division and can form nice colonies. Deer resistant, the plants look wonderful in a woodland garden and pair nicely with hostas to disguise their lankiness.</p>	
<p><b>Louise Cochrane Rose Garden</b></p>	<p><b>Roses, <i>Rosa cv.</i></b> We grow so many rose varieties that the Cochrane Rose Garden is floriferous, colorful, fragrant and buzzing with bees 6 months of the year. One can find elegant hybrid tea roses, smaller but abundant floribunda roses, miniatures, grandifloras, and sturdy tall climbing roses. From the classic to modern low-maintenance roses, any species or cultivar that can tolerate the Richmond humidity will be found growing here.</p>	
<p><b>*Main Garden Walk</b></p>	<p><b>Kalimeris, <i>Kalimeris mongolica</i></b>. Although this type of aster comes from the Far East, it acts as though it belongs in Virginia. Without any special attention, the bushy 3’ plant covers itself with white button flowers from spring through autumn, when it slowly goes dormant for the winter. Divide it in half and you’ll have a 2<sup>nd</sup> healthy plant for another garden spot. In sun or part shade, kalimeris is the perfect plant to fill out your garden.</p>	