

# BRIGHT SPOTS

## A SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF CURRENT GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS

July 21, 2025

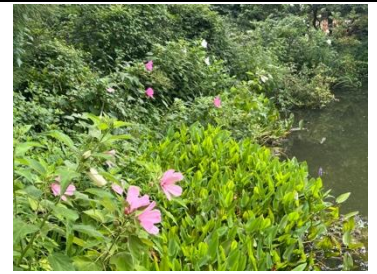
### + Virginia Native Plant

<p>Scan QR code for a digital copy</p> 	<p>Our mission is to inspire communities to explore and conserve nature. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to minimizing damage to plant material. Pest management does not mean NO pests and NO damage. Not all situations require control or intervention. In fact, allowing low levels of pests often attracts beneficial insects and songbirds that aid in controlling those pests. To prevent pests from becoming a problem, we practice companion planting in the Rose Garden, crop rotation in the Kroger Community Kitchen Garden, and use predatory wasps to control aphid outbreaks in the Conservatory. Learn more from Peggy Singlemann’s class on “Eco-Friendly Methods of Controlling Garden Pests” at LBG on Sept 6. Register online.</p>	
 <p>The intricate purple flowers can be appreciated from a distance or up close</p>	<p><b>Oregano, <i>Origanum</i> ‘Drops of Jupiter’</b> is one of many members of the mint family that originated in the Mediterranean and now occurs world-wide. ‘Drops of Jupiter’ is more ornamental than culinary because its edible leaves have a milder flavor than specially bred oreganos. Hybrids with strong pungent aromas deter cabbage butterflies, aphids, and beetles. The dense growth habitat helps control weeds, making it a winning companion for veggies. Essential oils repel insects.</p>	 <p>Located in the Central Garden, at the outside corner of the Healing Garden</p>
 <p><i>E. maculatum</i> ‘Snowball’ is located in the triangle bed near the Main Garden Walk</p>	<p>+ <b>Joe Pye weed, <i>Eutrochium</i></b>. LBG grows many species of this native plant throughout the Garden. Loving sun and moisture, the plants’ large composite flowers attract innumerable pollinators as well as birds and spiders. It’s all about dinner; these beneficials eat aphids, leaf beetles, and leaf miners that harm other plants. The plant’s root system reduces soil erosion AND absorbs chemicals, keeping waterways safe. Resistant to mammals <i>and</i> beautiful – everything one wants!</p>	 <p>A closeup of the large flower &amp; leaf clusters that are so attractive to pollinators</p>
 <p>The blossom is like a shooting star - pretty and IPM effective!</p>	<p><b>Ornamental onion, <i>Allium</i> ‘Millenium’</b>, is an eye-catching hybrid onion bulb. While this cultivar is not native to VA, its sulfur scent repels our aphids, snails, slugs, and nematodes – pests we don’t want. And, unlike wild onions, this keeps to itself when you deadhead it. Grow it in the sun or part-shade in any reasonable soil and it will add color and protection to your summer garden. As we can’t detect its scent, cut the blooms for indoors.</p>	 <p>Found along the Fountain Garden walkway, in Flagler Garden and elsewhere</p>



**Hibiscus 'Ballet Slippers'**  
Summerific® in the Four Seasons Garden

+ **Rose mallow, *Hibiscus moscheutos***, a Virginia native perennial - also called swamp mallow- thrives in moist areas and is known for its large, showy, white or pink flowers. Blooming from mid-summer through early fall, the blooms resemble those of okra, another mallow family member. Named the 2019 Virginia Native Plant of the Year for attracting pollinators - butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds - it is deer resistant, allowing for a full season of beauty and pollinator benefits!



You will see white and pink blossoms all around Lake Sydnor and the pond below the Asian Valley



French marigolds in the Children's Garden

**Marigolds, *Tagetes***. Noted for their bright warm colors and ease of growth, these New World natives have about 50 hybrids that occur world-wide. Major groups are the short French marigolds and the taller plants, known as American, Mexican, or African marigolds. Their pungent aroma helps repel aphids, deer, and rabbits. Many hybrids emit toxins from their roots that reduce root-knot nematode populations in the soil. In the fall, chop and till into the soil to protect future plants.



A brilliant yellow variety, also in the Children's Garden



The pure white blooms brighten the current sea of green

**Panicle hydrangea, *Hydrangea paniculata*** 'Limelight', is a cultivar that typically grows 6-8' tall and wide and produces large, dense, upright, cone-shaped panicles. Blooming on new wood, flowers emerge creamy-white, mature to chartreuse-lime, acquire rose tones, and then fade to beige, making them great for fresh or dried arrangements. Blooms left on the plant will persist well for winter interest!



This large shrub has been in Flagler Garden, near the original entrance, for years



This delicate pink bee balm is found in the West Fountain Garden and throughout

+ **Beebalm, *Monarda bradburiana***, is a must for the pollinator garden. A member of the square-stemmed mint family, it is fragrant and attracts hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees. That scent deters aphids, Japanese beetles, deer, and rabbits. IPM! The grayish-green leaves can be used for tea and the flowers mixed in a salad. In medicinal lore, the plant is known to calm bee stings (hence its common name), settle upset stomachs, and cure headaches.



The flowerhead is surrounded by colorful leafy bracts



'Strike It Rich', with its companion tickseed, is located in RG7.

**Rose, *Rosa* 'Wekbepmey' Strike It Rich®**, is a large, 30+ petaled, disease-resistant, and fragrant grandiflora rose that was introduced in 2005. Its color is a deep golden-yellow with touches of raspberry – so rich that you can't wait for it to rebloom. It is paired with a bright-yellow *Coreopsis* – a native companion plant whose nectar brings in butterflies and bees to help with pest control, seeds that attract birds in the autumn, and abundant foliage and blooms that provide a hearty backdrop for the perfect picture.



The multi-layered coloration of this grandiflora rose