

BRIGHT SPOTS

A SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF CURRENT GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS

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+ Virginia Native Plant

<p>Scan QR code for a digital copy</p> 	<p>Bradford Pear, <i>Pyrus calleryana</i>, was once thought to be the perfect streetscape tree...until it wasn't. Known for lovely spring flowers and fall color, millions were sold and planted. But over time, the trees once thought sterile, cross pollinated creating fertile seeds dispersed by birds and have now crowded out native plants in fields and along roadsides. Dense thickets reduced food and habitat for wildlife. Sadly, these invasive trees are still sold in big box stores and some nurseries. Consider planting a native redbud tree, <i>Cercis canadensis</i>, dogwood, <i>Cornus florida</i> or serviceberry, <i>Amelanchier arborea</i> instead.</p>	
 <p>See them amongst the daffodils in the Bragdon Garden</p>	<p>+Fothergilla, <i>Fothergilla gardenii</i> 'Jane Platt'. Frothy white flowers, without petals, characterize this native shrub (SE USA). The showy male flower, made of stamens, is above the plainer female flower. Pollinators flock to the honey-scented bloom. Fothergilla's blue green leaves turn orange red in the fall. Plant this slow-growing, small shrub (3ft x 3ft) in a sunny place with well-drained, rich, acidic soil.</p>	 <p>Up close, the beauty of these delicate flowers is on full display</p>
 <p>In Central Garden. <i>Ipheion uniflorum</i> 'Wisley Blue' received the RHS Award of Garden Merit</p>	<p>Spring starflowers, <i>Ipheion</i>. Prized for their honey-scented star-shaped flowers, these members of the amaryllis family bloom early and are very resilient. Colors range from white to pale blue and deep periwinkle to violet. When crushed, the grass-like foliage has a distinctive onion or garlic scent that repels deer, rabbits and rodents. Spread by bulb offsets or self-seeding, they naturalize slowly in lawns or under trees. Valuable nectar source for bees when few flowers are available.</p>	 <p><i>Ipheion</i> 'Rolf Fiedler' is considered superior to standard species and is in Rob's Garden</p>
 <p>These bright yellow blooms are showstoppers welcoming Spring</p>	<p>Japanese Rose, <i>Kerria japonica</i>, is a spring blooming deciduous shrub native to Asia. It makes a nice addition to the shade garden as a specimen or pruned into a hedge. Depending on the cultivar, the yellow flowers can have single petals or doubles. The stems remain yellowish green throughout the winter, making this a three-season plant with pretty winter interest. <i>Kerria</i> is drought tolerant and deer resistant and a low maintenance shrub for the home landscape.</p>	 <p>Don't miss this rose on the right as you leave the Visitor's Center</p>



Japanese maple leaves provide not only great texture but color

Japanese maple, *Acer*. These understory maple trees have begun to flower and leaf out. You will find every color, size and shape in the Asian Valley. The full moon maple, *A. japonicum* ‘Aconitifolium’ on the right, still has its bright red flower clusters. Others have progressed to the full leaf stage. The picturesque (‘Katsura’) with dissected leaves and others with a more classic shape bring us a surprising amount of pleasure throughout the year.



Entering the Asian Valley, look for these stunners along the walk



A pop of color found along the paths on the Woodland Walk

Epimediums. This low- maintenance, easy growing shade loving plant is a beauty as it emerges first in spring while other perennials continue to rest. Blooming in spring colors such as yellow, pink, white and red, it’s long spidery blooms are filled with nectar. Once the blooms fade, the leaves take over the show with a colorful display that either mounds or spreads throughout the fall. This plant has more than 50 species and is deer and drought resistant.



Be on the lookout for not only white and pink, but also yellow!



These fiddleheads appear along the Woodland Walk

+ **Cinnamon Fern, *Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*,** is a native fern that grows best in a moist or boggy shady area. In spring, the sterile fiddleheads appear from the base of the plant and unfurl into large, erect light green fronds that remain attractive throughout summer. Also from the base of the plant, fertile, spore-bearing fronds appear, quickly turning to a cinnamon brown color, hence the common name. Osmund fiber used in potting orchids come from cinnamon fern roots!



Some fiddleheads are edible, but Cinnamon Fern are generally not recommended for consumption



Fibrous roots help stabilize soil, especially along streambanks, as in Flagler Garden

+**Celandine or wood poppy, *Stylophorum diphyllum*.** Carpets of golden cup-shaped flowers bring vivid color to shaded woodland gardens. The stems contain a bitter bright-yellow-to-orange sap used as a dye by Native Americans. The bitter sap repels herbivores. The seeds have a nutrient-rich attachment (elaiosome) that attracts ants – they carry the seeds to the nest, eat the elaiosome, and “plant” the seeds in nutrient-rich soil. Small mammals also eat the seeds. Bees like the pollen!



Don’t confuse with the weedy invasives - greater celandine (*Chelidonium majus*) and lesser celandine (*Ficaria verna*)



Foliage like the meadow rue and flowers similar to the anemone

Rue Anemone, *Thalictrum thalictroides* is a small, underused and easy to grow woodland plant. Growing less than 10 inches tall, in the spring it has little white flowers with 5-10 petals and many yellow stamens appearing in small clusters. It is a member of the buttercup family and native to Eastern and central North America. The flowers are visited by bees for the pollen, although it doesn’t produce nectar. In some hotter areas, this plant goes dormant during the summer.



... the result is the common name of rue anemone.