

# 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>Virginia's Historic Garden week has ended, but you can still enjoy strolling past color filled garden beds here at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. The lovely plants highlighted below are only a sampling of what's on view. Not only are we growing plants, but we are also growing the size of our public garden space. The Conservatory area has doubled including an exhibit hall that will house butterflies year-round! That space as well as new gardens and a walking trail around Lake Wick will open to the public on <u>May 23</u>.</p>	
 <p><b>Roof Iris</b> was found growing on roofs during wartime in Japan, as land was to be used to grow rice and vegetables</p>	<p><b>Iris.</b> Known for its striking regal and complex blooms, it seems there is an Iris for every garden! The <b><i>Iris tectorum</i>, Roof Iris</b> grows in sun to part shade in dry soil and is very adaptable, and the <b>Siberian Iris</b> is happiest in moist soil and full sun. <b>Siberian Iris</b> is clump forming, whereas <b>Roof Iris</b> can be used as a ground cover, in a rock garden or for naturalizing. Both bloom between April and May and make good cut flowers and are deer and drought tolerant.</p>	 <p><b>Siberian Iris, 'Strawberry Fair'</b>, heavily ruffled, magenta pink falls and lavender pink standards can be found in the Fountain Terrace East garden</p>
 <p>'<b>Duchesse de Nemours</b>' an open form bloom is bee friendly and received the Award of Garden Merit from Royal Horticulture Society</p>	<p><b>Peony, Paeonia.</b> Across many cultures, peonies represent wealth, good fortune and bravery. A stalwart in Spring gardens, these sun loving herbaceous perennials grow in many forms, from single to double and even a tree form with showy blooms in white, shades of pink and yellow. Afterwards, the foliage is a nice backdrop for colorful summer annuals. Relatively pest free &amp; deer resistant, peonies are long lived, do not need to be divided and can be left undisturbed for years!</p>	 <p>The dense petals are lovely, but no stamens mean that our bee friends will go hungry trying to eat here</p>
 <p>Highly attractive to bees and butterflies, the dried seed-heads provide winter food for birds</p>	<p><b>Sage-leaf mullein, <i>Phlomis tuberosa</i> 'Bronze Flamingo'</b>, is a striking perennial valued for its architectural form and resilience. From arrow-shaped, wrinkled, fuzzy leaves, stalks emerge to a height of 3'. At intervals along the stalk, whorls of lavender-pink flowers surround the stem, and dry to attractive seed-heads. The tuberous roots, resembling potatoes, make the plant exceptionally drought tolerant. Plant in xeriscapes, meadow gardens, and mixed borders with full sun.</p>	 <p>Prune close to the ground in late winter before new foliage and stems emerge in a "bronze flush" hue</p>



Spiderworts can be found in many parts of the garden, but this one is in the Meditation Garden

+**Spiderwort, *Tradescantia***, small, saucer-shaped, 3-petaled blooms in clusters at the stem ends, with new blossoms daily. Natural bio-indicators, purple hairs on stamens turn pink when exposed to environmental radiation or pollution. The name is derived from thick, sticky sap that emerges when stems are broken that becomes thread-like and silky, resembling a spider web. A pollinator workhorse attracting bees and butterflies to its yellow-stamen, blue-violet to white flowers.



Daylight has the blooms wide open before they close for the evening and night



Often planted in "healing gardens" to promote a sense of serenity or in containers with shade lovers

**Coral bells, *Heuchera 'Smoke and Mirrors.'*** Tidy clumps of silvery grey leaves with charcoal veining and plum-colored undersides make the greens of shade plants "pop". Especially bred to thrive in the heat and humidity of the SE USA, its airy pink flower spikes are a significant nectar source and are used in fresh bouquets. Plant in areas with rich soil and morning or dappled light (4-6 hr.), being sure to avoid south-facing areas where leaf scorch can occur. Repels deer & rabbits.



Common name, "alumroot" refers to its astringent roots used in folk medicines



After being lured by nectar, insects are pulled into the plant's "hairy" traps, forcing them down into a pool of digestive enzymes

+**Pitcher plant, *Sarracenia***. The insect trapping pitchers may be more familiar, now the quirky flowers that are the show. Looking like little upside-down umbrellas, the blooms come first to allow small insects to do their pollinating work without peril. *S. flava* was formerly in 8 VA counties; now reduced to one population of less than 100 plants due to wetland degradation and development. Gardens like LGBG preserve genetic material and plants for future generations to enjoy.



This is how the plant receives nutrition from the insect. They are located in the West Island wetlands



These purple globes of color are in abundance behind the Pavillion in the Flager Garden

**Alliums**, part of the Amaryllidaceae family, are known for their distinct pungent aroma and diverse forms. These perennials range from edible staples like garlic, onions, and chives to striking ornamental varieties. They typically feature globe-like flower clusters atop sturdy, leafless stems called scapes. Their foliage is often narrow and basal. Thriving in sunny spots with well-drained soil, alliums are deer-resistant and attract pollinators like bees and butterflies.



Coming in for a landing, this pollinator is in for a treat leaving plenty of space for others to join



Fully double flowers with 50-70 petals in a swirl arrangement

**English shrub rose, *Rosa 'Auscot' David Austin® Abraham Darby®***, was one of benefactor Louise Cochran's favorite rose. Named after a famous iron master from the Industrial Revolution, this 1985 rose is as tough as iron: disease, cold, & heat tolerant as well as almost thorn ("prickle")-free and vigorous in growth. And yet still pretty and luscious with a fruity fragrance. Fittingly, it's known as a "flower machine". This beauty can be found in the Cochran Rose Garden.



Continuous blooms all season, with each blossom lasting 4-5 days. Oops - deer like it, too