

# 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>Unseasonably warm temperatures and historically low rainfall have pushed much of the Commonwealth into drought conditions. Some areas of southern Virginia are now labeled “exceptional drought.” In the new beds around the reimagined Conservatory, the Garden is planting for the future of climate change. The plants in the Sunrise Terrace in front of the Conservatory have been intentionally chosen for their resilience and ability to thrive in a hot, dry Mediterranean summer or the arid desert. Ann Lee’s meadow has been designed a sustainable, adaptable and ecologically functioning garden. These spaces are a glimpse into how thoughtful planting can adapt to a changing world.</p>	
 <p><i>Oenothera lindheimeri</i> along the driveway to the Garden’s main entrance</p>	<p><b>Gaura, <i>Oenothera lindheimeri</i></b>, also known as ‘Whirling Butterflies’, has an abundance of delicate pink or white flowers that hover on long stems above the foliage like butterflies, hence the common name. The foliage is typically green, although some cultivars have reddish leaves and others are more compact. Blooming for most of the year, this is a great low maintenance perennial for cottage gardens, butterfly gardens, mass planting or as part of a mixed border.</p>	 <p>The movement of the flowers in the breeze appears like butterflies &amp; also attracts these pollinators</p>
 <p>As the flowers age, their color changes. The plant will have orange, apricot and yellow</p>	<p><b>+Yarrow, <i>Achillia</i></b>, popular with pollinators and beneficial insects, ornamental flat-topped flower clusters come in shades of yellow, orange, red or white which rise above soapy-scented feathery foliage that repels deer and rabbits. Long blooming and easy to grow, yarrow can rescue barren areas because of its tolerance for heat, drought and infertile soil. The name, <i>Achillia</i>, honors Achilles, the Greek hero, who used the plant to stop bleeding and heal wounds on battlefields.</p>	 <p>Come see <i>Achillea millefolium</i> ‘Terra Cotta’ in Four Seasons</p>
 <p>Standing tall in the Central Garden’s West Triangle Bed</p>	<p><b>+Yellow coneflower, <i>Rudbeckia</i></b>. Look for the more than 15 different species in the Garden, many of which are Virginia natives and some with green eyes! These hardy perennials are quick to grow (sometimes tall, like this <i>Rudbeckia maxima</i>), long-blooming, self-seeding, medicinal and attractive to bees and birds alike. They thrive in our hot, humid weather – so much so that they regrow every year.</p>	 <p>Leave flower stalks after bloom; goldfinches will enjoy the seeds</p>



***H. macrophylla* 'Piihm-i' Endless Summer Twist-n-Shout® in Fountain Garden West**

**Bigleaf hydrangeas, *H. macrophylla***, feature two main flower forms: mopheads and lacecaps. Mopheads are the famous garden classics, boasting massive, puffy pom-poms packed with colorful, sterile florets. Lacecaps offer a subtle, airy elegance, displaying flat flower heads with tiny fertile buds ringed by showy outer petals. Both act as natural mood rings, shifting from electric blue in acidic soil to vibrant pink in alkaline soil. Shade and moisture allow their blooms to thrive!



***H. macrophylla* 'Fireworks' by the Flagler Pavilion and near the stream**



***Hemerocallis* 'Ruby Spider' in Fountain Garden West**

**Daylilies, *Hemerocallis***, are a carefree flowering perennial that thrives in almost any type of soil and a wide variety of climates. Known for their colorful and abundant flowers, they bloom from midsummer into early fall with blooms opening each day. The name comes from the Greek words *hemera*, meaning day and *kallos*, meaning beauty - as each flower lasts one day. Every part of the daylily is edible; the flower buds are a popular delicacy and the petals can be tossed into salads.



***Hemerocallis* 'Plate of Sunshine' behind Flagler Pavilion**



**This large collection grows well in the morning shade of Flagler**

**+Stokes' aster, *Stokesia laevis***, would be a prize for your garden. Long blooming (if you deadhead), lasting as cut flowers, magnetic to bees & butterflies, drought OR riverbank happy, prolific in sun to filtered sun, semi-evergreen, heat and ice tolerant, deer and rabbit resistant. This perennial has it all. Look closely at the complex flowers with discs and rays: they are soft & feathery yet seem thistle-like. Colors range from white to deep purple.



**The deep violet-purple of this flower looks regal washed in sunlight or in a.m. shade**



**You can see the 3 upper petals ("standards") & 3 lower "falls". Yellow stripes lead bees to the pollen**

**Japanese iris, *Iris ensata***. Cultivated and prized by the Japanese for thousands of years, Japanese water iris are a showstopper. Colors vary from bloom to bloom with white to lavender falls, striping, and darker purple in center. These beauties thrive in sun, humidity and wet, rich soil, naturally growing near pond edges and streams where the water table is high; however, their roots need to dry out during the winter to prevent root rot. The genus, *Iris*, was named for the Greek goddess of the rainbow.



**LGBG grows 33 varieties of *Iris ensata*. This grouping is close to the bridge to West Island**



***H.* 'Silly String' is distinctive from the more traditional *Hosta*, both next to the Monet Bridge**

**Plantain lily, *Hosta* 'Silly String'**. We are fans of *Hosta* - plants for afternoon shade spaces, with a huge assortment of leaf- and plant-sizes and a wide variety of green to golden coloration, some with splashes of white or yellow. LGBG has added a completely new cultivar to its vast collection in Flagler Garden: the 2025 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner of the RHS Chelsea Show. It features slim, blue-green leaves with curly edges, compact in size. Follow all the usual cultural practices for *Hosta*.



**The blue-tinge is most evident in spring; the leaves become more green later in summer**