

BRIGHT SPOTS

A SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF CURRENT GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS

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GINTER
BOTANICAL
GARDEN**

+ Virginia Native Plant

Scan QR code for a digital copy 	How to get the most out of a small garden space? Look for plants that provide color for several seasons of the year. Trees do this, of course. Our native dogwood produces clouds of white blossoms in spring and displays vibrant red leaves through the fall. Maples and ginkgos provide the same effect with their foliage change. No room for a tree? Smaller shrubs and some perennials can provide the same result. As the fall season peaks in the days ahead, look around. In addition to beautifully colored leaves, you can find shrubs with colorful berries (winterberries in bright red or golden yellow) and others with attractive bark like red twig dogwood.		
 Located along the Fountain Gardens East & West as well as on the Cherry Tree Walk	Panicle Hydrangea, <i>Hydrangea paniculata</i>, ‘Dvppinky’ Pinky-Winky®, has been showing off in the garden for several months, even through the hottest days of summer! Native to China and Japan, this is a deciduous shrub with exceptionally large (up to 12”) panicles. The blooms begin white and change to pink. As a plus, the stems are strong and hold the large blooms upright – no drooping! This shrub is adaptable to most soil and light conditions. The blooms can be used as a cut flower or for drying. Attracts butterflies & pollinators.	 The name seems to befit a small shrub – but no, it is not. The plant even can be limbed up to take a tree-form	
 This pink muhly is found around the Garden. Plant in drifts for maximum impact.	+Muhly grass, <i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>, is a striking, low maintenance perennial grass that grows in graceful, fountain shaped mounds topped in fall with airy seed heads that remain attractive through the winter. An asset in the garden, this grass is highly resistant to deer, the seeds feed songbirds and the dense clumps provide shelter for small wildlife. Tolerant of heat, humidity, drought and poor soil, this salt resistant plant has it all!	 ‘White Cloud’ sparkles in the Fountain Gardens East & West	
 Located inside and outside the Desert House, we see emerging young pads and fruits	Prickly pear cactus, <i>Opuntia × basilaris</i> ‘Baby Rita’ is a succulent with flat paddle shaped stems and sharp spines. Very resilient, this plant is resistant to deer, better able to withstand cold temperatures than other cacti and has shallow roots that capture rainwater enabling plants to thrive in periods of drought. Both the sweet tasting fruit (called tuna) and young pads are edible when peeled. Spring brings vibrant blooms in yellow, orange or pink. Truly a plant for all seasons.	 The fruits are pink unless touched by cold weather; they then turn red	



Throughout the Garden, *Symphiotrichum oblongifolium* 'Raydon's Favorite' is just opening

Asters. The Greek goddess Astraea was so upset by the lack of stars in the sky that she began to weep, with asters sprouting from where her tears fell upon the ground. In Greek, aster means star. Sun-loving and drought resistant, often coloring the landscape where other blooms have given up for the season. A vital food and habitat source for wildlife. Once pollinated, the yellow pistil will darken - which is a sign for the bees to not waste their time.



Tatarian aster, *Aster tataricus* 'Jindai' in Fountain Garden West, grows 3' to 6' tall



Grow the dwarf variety 'Emperor' in gardens, containers, or as bonsai. Four Seasons Garden

Pomegranate, *Punica granatum*. Originating in a region from Iran to northern India, traders spread it along the Silk Road to Asia and Spanish explorers introduced it to the Americas. Now grown world-wide, bushes and trees have orange-red spring blooms, yellow fall foliage, and crimson-red fruits that may persist on the bare wood all winter long. Fruits may be eaten fresh, made into juice or syrups or used as a garnish. Rich in fiber, vitamins C and K, and antioxidants.



The fruits on the 'Smith' (Angel Red ®) have multiplied & grown large. Sunrise Gardens



The height (1.5'-3.0') and spread (2') works well in mass plantings to brighten dark garden corners

Variegated toad lily, *Tricyrtis hirta* 'Variegata'. Native to the mountainous woodlands of Japan, arching stems with variegated leaves are the hallmark of this shade-loving perennial. In the early fall, white to pale-purple, amethyst-spotted, orchid-like blooms fill the color gap and provide nectar for insects and butterflies. Use in woodland borders, shaded beds, the understory of trees, and as a specimen container plant. Consistent moisture is required to prevent leaf-scorch.



Named toad lily as the flower's spotted pattern resembles mottled toad skin. Asian Valley



Sweet olive, *O. fragrans*, is the most aromatic of the species. Asian Garden

Osmanthus. Cultivated for centuries, members of this E. Asian genus are recognized for their intoxicating sweet floral scent that is used in teas, perfumes, and even desserts. Grown world-wide, their evergreen dense foliage adapts well to shearing and they are planted as privacy screens, hedges, and foundation plants. Foliage on young branches close to the ground can have spines (deter predators); whereas upper mature branches often have smooth edges. Ten species are in the Garden.



Osmanthus x fortunei can reach 15-20'. Children's Garden



Glossy green foliage is an attractive backdrop for the richly colored blooms

Rosa 'Korvodacom' Sunbelt® Plum Perfect. Remarkable in its color and performance, this striking floribunda stands apart. Rare purple-plum, fully double, ruffled cup blooms carry a sweet fragrance with hints of raspberry. Specifically selected to thrive in hot, humid climates, it shrugs off heat, humidity, and disease without breaking a sweat. Perfect for tight borders or patio containers, luscious 75-petal blooms flower repeatedly without fading or scorching in the summer heat. Rose G.



Cut, abundant blooms make for distinctive floral arrangements.