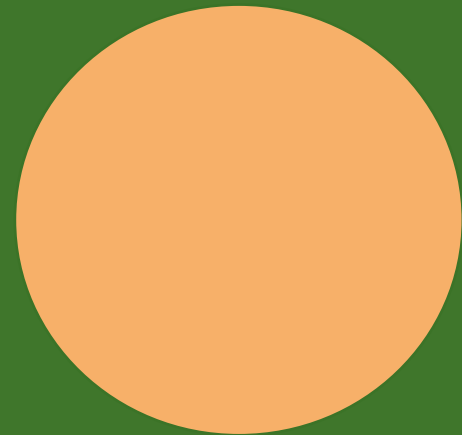
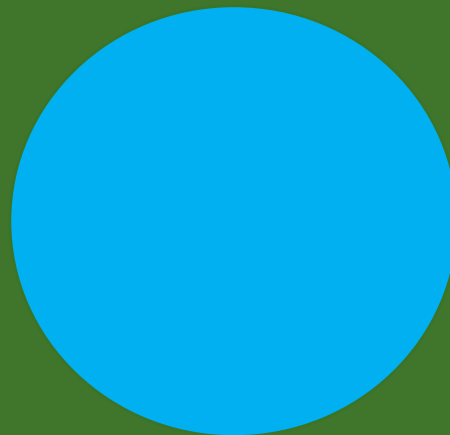
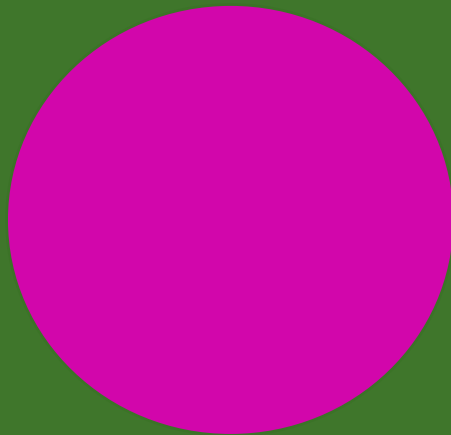
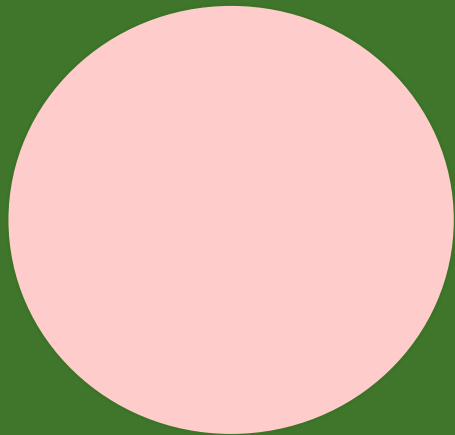


# SIMPSON GARDEN NATIVE PLANT SCAVENGER HUNT

Fun for all ages! Recommend parental supervision  
for kids under 10. Usually takes less than one hour.

See how many native plants you find while learning  
about them!



**If you  
want to  
play**

**You must follow ONE  
REALLY BIG IMPORTANT  
GARDEN RULE!**

**CAN YOU GUESS  
WHAT IT IS?**

**10 points for a correct  
answer!!**

**HINT**

**If you follow this rule,  
the Master Gardeners  
who care for this  
garden will be MOST  
GRATEFUL!**

**The  
BIG  
RULE  
IS**

**Stay on  
the paths  
and don't  
harm the  
plants!**

**Award yourself 10 Bonus Points  
if you say out loud  
2 times and in a different voice each time):**

**“I will stay on the paths and  
not harm the plants.”**

**GREAT  
JOB!**

# Read These Tips!

## Location Hints

Simpson Garden has 13 beds. Some are marked with a sign (Berm Garden, Pollinator Garden, Shade Garden, Scented Garden, Butterfly Soak Garden).

## Plant ID

Not all plants are identified with a sign. You must compare leaf size and shape to the photos for each search activity.

## Seasonal Differences

Not recommended for winter. Also, pay attention to clues about when plants bloom. A plant that blooms in the spring may have seed pods or berries by summer/fall. Some plants bloom in the fall.

## Natural Spread

You may find the plant in more than one place or other than where we identify.

## Answers

We provide answers as you go along (so if you skip ahead, you may see where plants are).

There is no time limit.

## Scoring

Tally points yourself or just enjoy the fun! Check for bonus point opportunities!

**Can you  
find me  
for 10  
points?**



Photo © Cindy Robertson

**Hint: I have a  
great view of the  
YMCA but am  
NOT in the  
Scented Garden  
or the Tufa  
Garden!**

## **Buttonbush** *Cephalanthus occidentalis*

**My white, fragrant flowers  
bloom in spring and look like  
pom poms. The pom poms turn  
into rose-colored seed heads by  
August. I can grow to 5-12 feet  
high and 4-8 feet wide.**

**Bees, butterflies,  
hummingbirds, songbirds, and  
waterfowl love me!**



Photo © Elaine Mills



Photo © Elaine Mills

**Double points if you  
can guess what kind  
of soil I like (dry or  
wet). To answer, pay  
attention to what  
kind of birds like me.**

# Location of Button Bush



Button Bush

The Button Bush likes moist to wet soil. A favorite of waterfowl, it can often be found near rivers and ponds. Great shrub for a rain garden!

**Can  
you find  
me?**

**Cup Plant**  
*Silphium perfoliatum L.*

**My strong, large leaves  
are joined at the stem  
to form small cups that  
hold rainwater and  
attract birds!**



Photo © Cindy Robertson

**Earn 10 points for  
finding me and a  
bonus point for  
every bud or  
blossom you  
count  
(Max +10)!**

**I grow up to 9  
feet and  
bloom in July,  
August, and  
September!**

**Hint: I'm in the  
middle of the  
garden in the  
Berm Garden  
bed!**

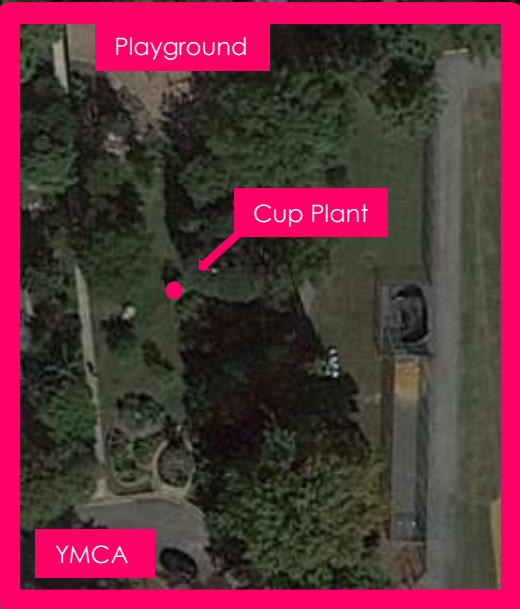


Photo © Cindy Robertson

# Location of Cup Plant

Cup Plant – see my yellow blooms in the background?

Bird's Eye view of Simpson Garden with dot marking location of Cup Plant.



Score  
10  
points  
for  
each  
tree  
you  
find!

## Paw Paw Tree

*Asimina triloba*

The name pawpaw was given to the tree by Spanish explorers who thought the fruit resembled a tropical papaya fruit.



Photo © Cindy Robertson

My flowers are reddish-brown and smell foul. My fruit is delicious and was cultivated by Native Americans.



Photo © Tom Potterfield

Hint: The  
Button Bush  
lives near me!



Photo © Cindy Robertson



Photo © Jim Robbins

# Location of Paw Paw Trees (4 Total!)



**Can you  
find me for  
10 points?**

## **Solomon's Seal**

*Polygonatum*

**Fun fact: I'm in the  
Asparagus (Asparagaceae)  
family but I'm for  
ornamental purposes  
only!**

**I bloom in late  
spring. You can  
find me  
in woodland  
gardens and  
shady,  
naturalized  
areas or flower  
gardens.**

**Hint: I'm in the  
Shade Garden at  
the back of the  
garden (close to  
playground).**



Photo © Cindy Robertson



Photo © Patty Felder

**Double points if  
you find one  
"variegated"  
(edged in cream)  
and one solid  
green.**

# Location of Solomon's Seal

View from  
behind the Crepe Myrtle tree  
at back of Shade Garden  
(near playground).



Solomon's Seal is at the back  
of the Shade Garden in the  
center of the bed and at the  
base of Crepe Myrtle tree  
farthest from YMCA.

Can  
you find  
me?



Photo © Cindy Robertson

Score 10  
points for  
each plant  
you find  
(100 point  
max)!

## Common Milkweed

*Asclepias syriaca* L.

After monarch  
caterpillars eat me, they  
become poisonous to  
predators because my  
milky white sap is  
poisonous to many  
animals!

Hint: I  
look out  
at cars!



Photo © Cindy Robertson

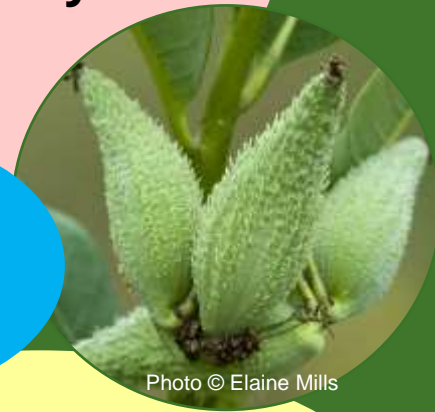


Photo © Elaine Mills

One plant can  
produce 25 fruits  
that may have as  
many as 450 seeds!  
**These WILL SPREAD!**

# Location of Common Milkweed



**Can  
you find  
me?**

## **Mountain Mint**

*Pycnanthemum muticum*

**Fun fact: I contain natural insect repellent – some people like to rub my leaves on clothes or put some stems in their pockets to repel ticks and mosquitos.**



Photo © Cindy Robertson

**Earn 10 points for finding me and a bonus point for every bee or butterfly who might be visiting me!  
(Max +10)!**

**Hint: I'm in the Scented Garden.**



Photo © Cindy Robertson

# Location of Mountain Mint



Can  
you find  
me?

Score  
10  
points

## Sweetbay or Swamp Magnolia Tree

*Magnolia virginiana*

**Fun fact: My fragrant  
flowers, which bloom in  
May and June, smell  
lemony!**



Photo © Cindy Robertson

**I can grow 10-30  
feet high and wide.  
If you guess  
correctly whether I  
prefer wet or dry  
soil give yourself  
an extra 10 points!  
(the hint is in my  
name)!**



Photo © Christa Watters

**I develop seed  
pods in late  
summer that  
often turn  
rosey-red.**



Photo © Cindy Robertson

# Location of Sweetbay Magnolia



**Sweetbay/Swamp Magnolia Trees prefer moist/wet soil and can handle soggy conditions.**

**Can  
you find  
me?**

**Hint: I'm  
in the  
Shade  
Garden!**

## **Wild Ginger** *Asarum canadense*

**Worth  
10  
points!**

**Fun facts: I love shade. My  
brown flowers hide underneath  
my leaves in the spring and are  
pollinated by ants and beetles!**

**Don't eat me because I'm not  
the ginger root that is used for  
cooking!**



Photo © M. Talabac

**Double points if  
you guess  
what playing  
card shape my  
leaves  
resemble.**

# Location of Wild Ginger

Award yourself 10 bonus points if you guessed that the leaves resembled either hearts or spades.



Wild Ginger is in several spots in the Shade Garden (some are marked).

Can  
you find  
me?

Worth  
10  
points!

10 bonus  
points if you  
name two  
visible  
differences  
from Wild  
Ginger!

## Wild Violet

*Asarum canadense*

Fun facts: I may look like  
wild ginger but my leaves  
and flowers are a little  
different!

My flowers  
are usually  
purple but  
can be white.

Hint: My  
neighbor is a  
Sweetbay  
Magnolia!



# Location of Wild Violet



**The Wild Violet appears in a circle around the trunk of the Sweetbay Magnolia**

**Compared to Wild Ginger, my leaves are lighter green, smaller, and have toothed edges (rather than smooth). My flowers grow above (not below) my leaves and are purple or white instead of brown.**

Can  
you find  
me?

## Blue Wild Indigo

*Baptisia australis*

I don't like to be  
transplanted but I live a  
long time. Bunnies  
enjoy snacking on me,  
but I don't mind!

Score 20  
points if  
you find 2  
plants!



Photo © Cindy Robertson

I grow 3-5 feet high  
and 3-4 feet wide. My  
flowers bloom in May  
& June on tall stems  
called racemes!

In late summer, I  
develop brownish-  
gray seed pods!

Hint: I can be  
found in the Berm  
Garden *and* near  
the Golden Larch  
tree.



Photo © Cindy Robertson

# Location of Blue Wild Indigo



One Blue Wild Indigo is next to the Golden Larch tree near the ball field and the other is in the Berm Garden

Can  
you find  
me?

Score  
10  
points

## Iron Weed

*Vernonia noveboracensis*

I grow up to 8 feet tall  
with deep purple  
flowers that appear in  
clusters from mid-  
summer to mid-fall on  
strong stems.

Trim me back to 2  
feet in the spring  
and I will not grow  
as tall and may  
produce even  
more blooms!

10  
Bonus Points if  
you find a plant  
that is taller  
than you!

Hint: I'm  
in the  
Pollinator  
Garden!



Photo © Cindy Robertson

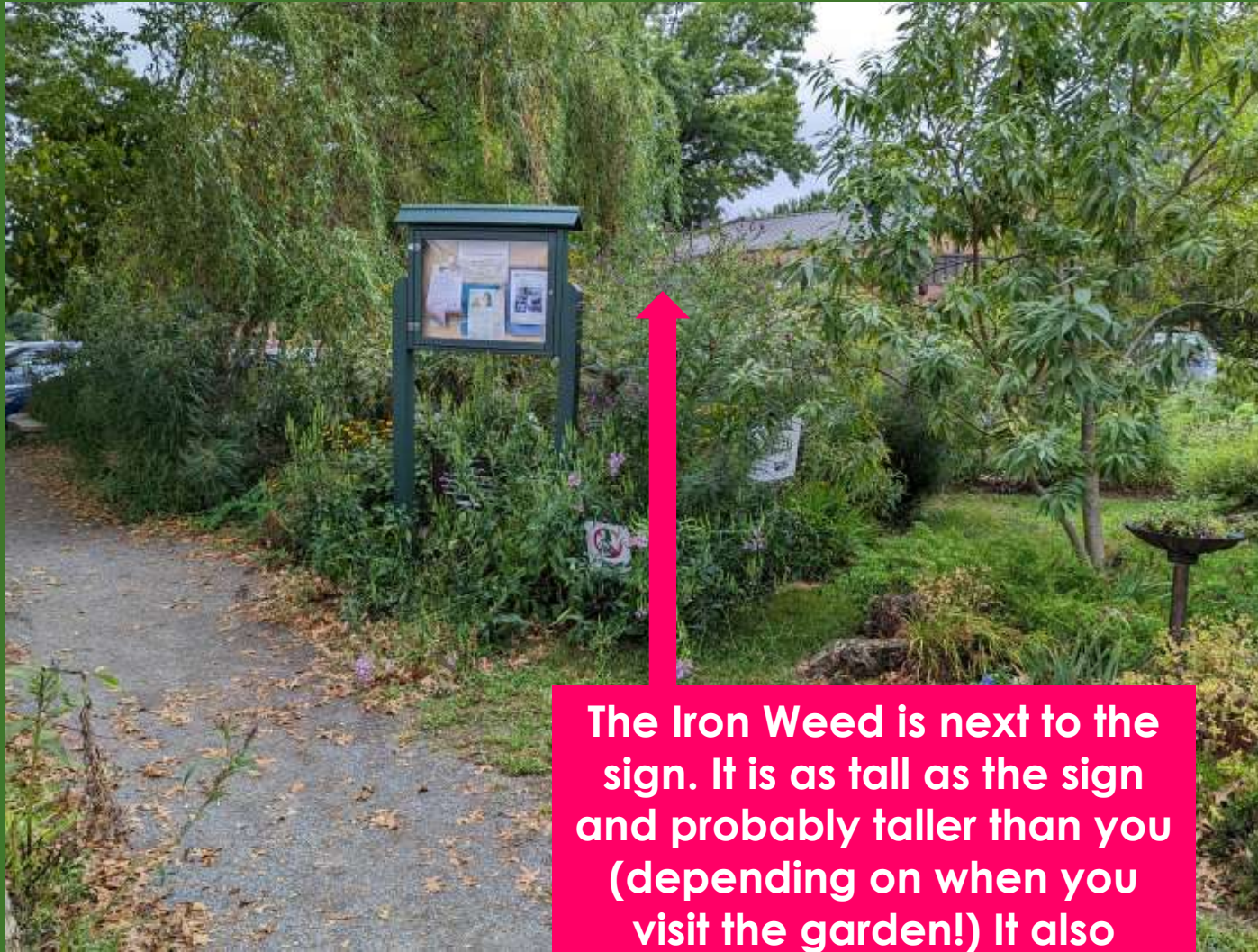


Photo © Cindy Robertson



Photo © Cindy Robertson

# Location of Iron Weed



The Iron Weed is next to the sign. It is as tall as the sign and probably taller than you (depending on when you visit the garden!) It also spreads, so you may find it elsewhere!

Can  
you find  
me?

Score  
10  
points

## Tall Phlox

*Phlox paniculata*

**Fun Fact: I attract  
butterflies, skippers,  
moths, and hummingbirds!**

**For 10 Bonus  
Points: What  
color is the  
planter near  
me?**

**I'm different than  
creeping or moss  
phlox, which grows  
low to the ground  
and blooms in early  
spring. I grow  
between 1.5 and 6  
feet high and bloom  
from July - October!**

**Hint: I'm in  
the Scented  
Garden.**



# Location of Tall Phlox

Tall Phlox is in the Scented Garden tucked in the back corner

Close up image



The planter is beige (tan).



Can you find me?

Score 10 points to find me!

## Obedient Plant

*Physostegia purpurea*

Fun fact: I am called the Obedient Plant because if you move my summer blooms in a different direction, they will stay there!



Photo © Cindy Robertson

I am also sometimes called an Eastern False Dragonhead!  
Can you see why?

Hint: you can find me near a tall sign that has a little roof on top!

Double points if you can answer!

The sea shell bird bath nearby is filled with what?



Photo © Dan Mullen  
CC BY-NC-ND 2.0



Photo © mitomi68  
CC BY-NC 4.0

# Location of Obedient Plant



Obedient Plant is  
at the base of  
the sign

The seashell bird  
bath is filled with  
soil and plants!

Can  
you find  
me?

Score  
10  
points

## Eastern Redbud

*Cercis canadensis*

**My spring purple-pink  
flowers can grow right  
on my trunk and  
branches as seen below!**

**Hint: My neighbors  
are the Button Bush  
and Paw Paw  
trees!**

**10 Bonus  
Points if you  
count 10  
seed pods!**



Photo © Cindy Robertson



Photo © Cindy Robertson



Photo © Leslie Filmore

# Location of Eastern Redbud Tree



Can you find me?

## New Jersey Tea

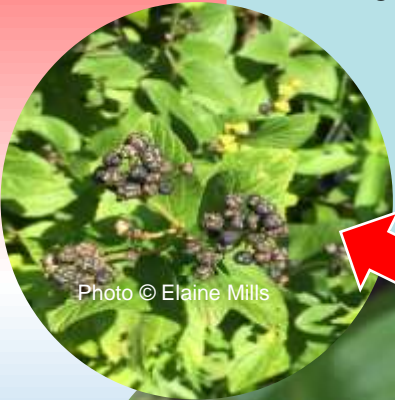
*Ceanothus americanus*

My leaves were dried and used for tea during the Revolutionary War!



Score 10 points if you find me!

Hint: I am in the Scented Garden and I have my own sign!



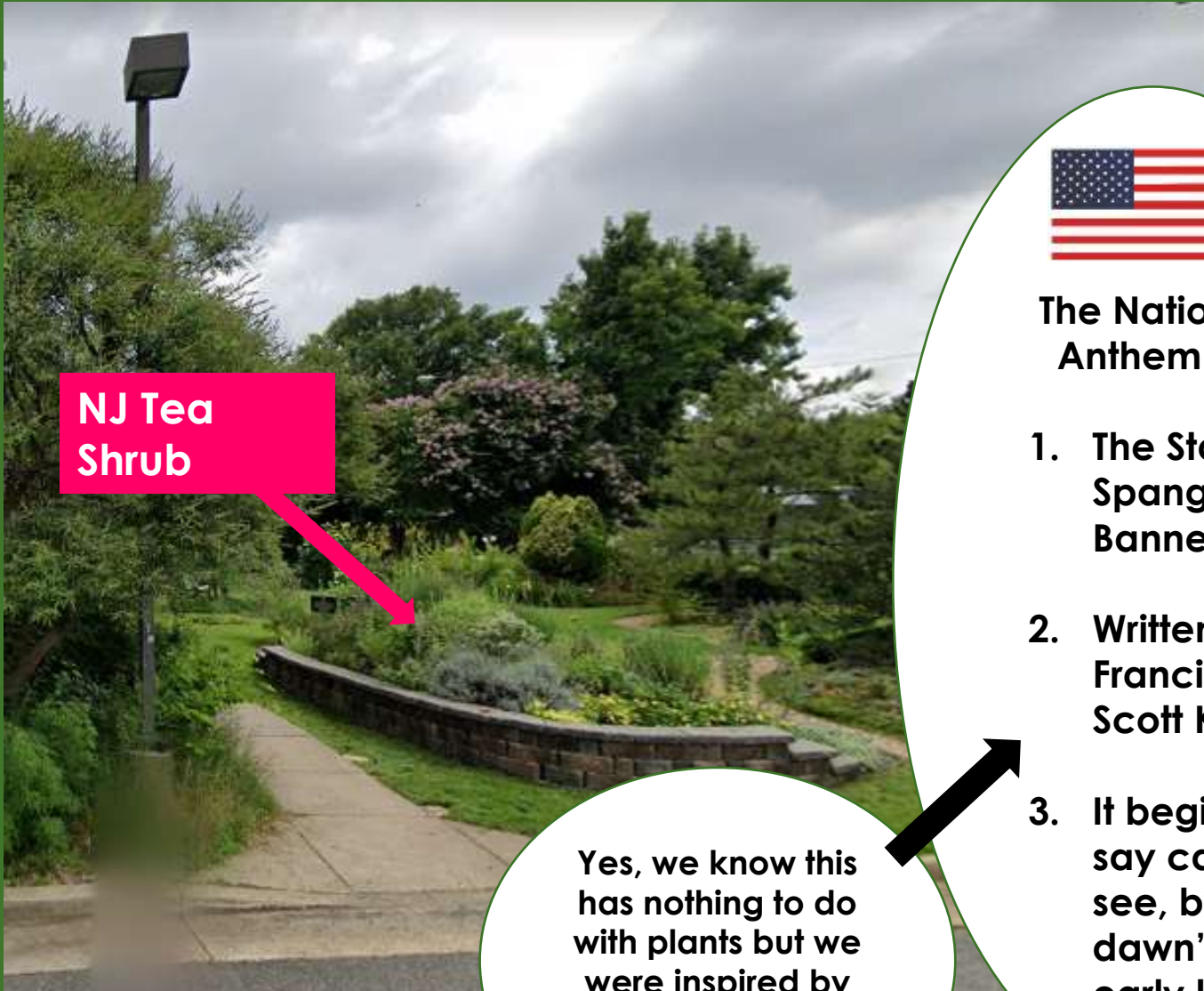
In late summer/fall, my yellow-green capsules called drupes called turn dark brown and split, ejecting seeds!

10 Bonus points for each correct answer:

1. What is our National Anthem?
2. Who wrote it?
3. What is the first line?



# Location of NJ Tea Shrub



**NJ Tea  
Shrub**



**The National  
Anthem is:**

- 1. The Star Spangled Banner**
- 2. Written by Francis Scott Key**
- 3. It begins: "O say can you see, by the dawn's early light"**

**Yes, we know this has nothing to do with plants but we were inspired by the Revolutionary War reference.**



**Can you  
find me?**

## **Coriopsis/Tickseed**

*Coreopsis verticillata*

**I come in dense, finely textured, bushy clumps with yellow flowers. I am known to have therapeutic uses.**



Photo © Cindy Robertson

**Earn 10 points for  
each plant you can  
find!**

**Earn up to 10 bonus  
points for every  
blossom or bud you  
count!**

**I bloom in early  
summer and  
then flower on  
and off until  
frost.**



Photo © Cindy Robertson

# Location of Coreopsis



Coreopsis

**Thank you for playing! Feedback encouraged!  
Please let us know if you played and what you  
thought!**

**Email: [mgarlalex@gmail.com](mailto:mgarlalex@gmail.com) or  
Call (voice only): (703) 228-6414**

- **Fun and educational?**
- **Ways to improve it?**
- **Worth creating more scavenger hunts here or at other gardens?**
- **Other ideas for family-friendly fun?**