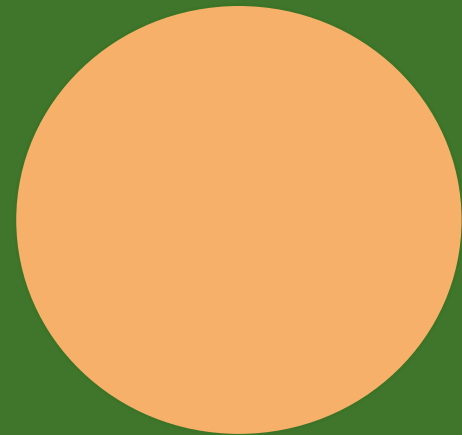
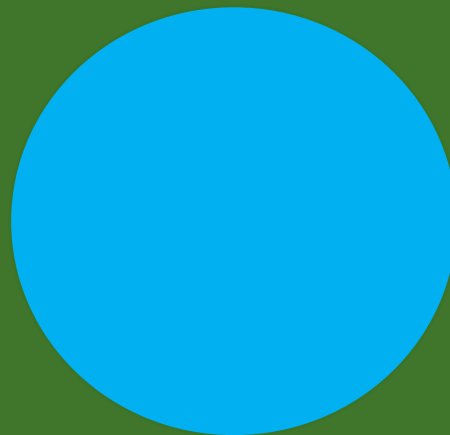
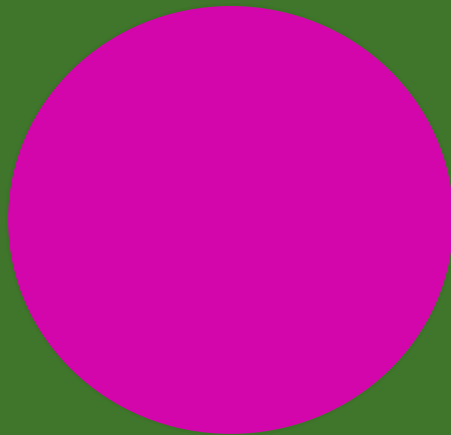
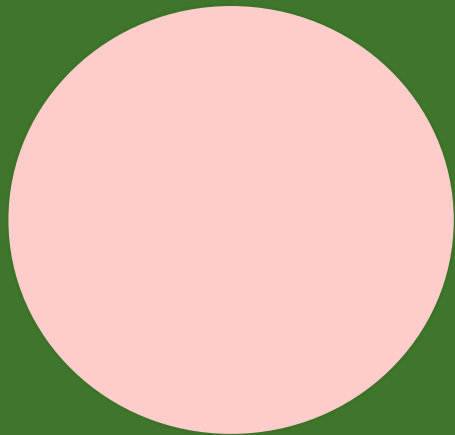


SUNNY GARDEN NATIVE PLANT SCAVENGER HUNT

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

The Sunny Garden has multiple beds. The main entrance is at the parking lot and the garden extends along the trail toward the woods.

Plant ID

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

Answers

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

There is no time limit.

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.

Scoring

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

Can you
find me?
10 pts if
you do!

Oak Leaf Hydrangea

Hydrangea quercifolia

My leaves look very
similar to oak tree
leaves, hence my name.
My flowers are white
and are shaped like
cones. I can grow up to
8 feet tall!

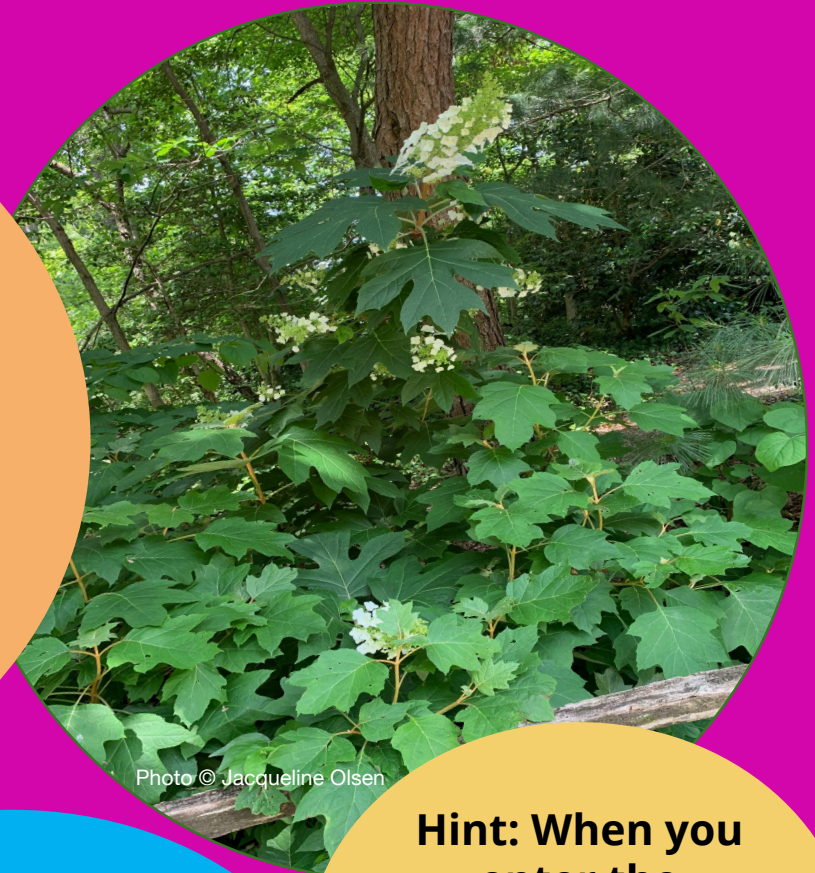


Photo © Jacqueline Olsen



Photo © Jacqueline Olsen

I am native to the
southeastern United
States. Native plants
benefit our
ecosystem and are
easy to grow in our
soil and climate.

Hint: When you
enter the
garden through
the arch, follow
the path to the
right.

BLOOM TIME: MAY TO LATE SUMMER

Location of Oak Leaf Hydrangea



When you enter the Sunny Garden through the arch, go to the right until you reach the edge of the garden on Lexington St.

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



Photo © Lori Kresse

**Hint: When looking
at the park's
playground from
inside the garden,
you can find me
near the outside
path.**



Photo © Lori Kresse

Sweet Joe Pye Weed

Eutrochium purpureum

**My lovely pinkish-purple flowers
bloom mid-summer to fall. They
wave high in the breeze and
provide landing platforms for
butterflies and other insect
pollinators. Can you smell their
sweet vanilla scent?**

**You need to give me lots of room,
because I can grow up to 7 feet
high!**

**I like moist and
fertile soil that
doesn't dry out.**



Photo © Lori Kresse

BLOOM TIME: JULY TO OCTOBER

Location of Sweet Joe Pye Weed



When you enter the Sunny Garden through the arch, look to your left and you'll see the tall Joe Pye Weed.

Can you
find me?

Score 10
points to
find me!

Little Bluestem

Schizachyrium scoparium

I am a lovely prairie grass with tall, erect, spiky bluish-green stems and leaves. I turn a stunning orange, red and purplish-brown in the fall. My fluffy seed heads can last all winter, and small mammals and birds enjoy eating them.



My clumps of leaves
grow 1-2 feet until late
summer, when my
flowering stems can
reach 5 feet tall!

Hint: you can
find me along
the path on the
outside edge of
the garden.



I look brown and rather
dead in the winter and
early spring but give me
time and my lovely
green leaves will
appear.

BLOOM TIME: AUGUST TO OCTOBER

Location of Little Bluestem



I am along
the path
near the
parking lot.

Photo © Lori Kresse

**Can you
find me?**

**Score
10
points**

Possumhaw Viburnum *Viburnum nudum*

**I am the most showy native
viburnum, with glossy,
leathery leaves that turn
red in the fall, and pretty
purple and red fruit. Bees
like my pollen and birds
eat my fruit.**



Photo © Lori Kresse

**I can grow 5-12 feet
high and wide. I
prefer moist soil and
sun or partial shade.
If you plant me with
other Possumhaw
plants you will get
more fruit.**

**Hint: I am near
other shrubs in an
open area not far
from a bench.**

**Fun Fact: I am
sometimes called
Wild Raisin
because of my
dark ripe fruit.**



Photo © Lori Kresse



Photo © Lori Kresse

BLOOM TIME: MAY TO JUNE

Location of Possumhaw Viburnum

As you walk
through the
archway entrance,
I am near other
shrubs in an open
area to the left.



**Can you
find me?**



Photo © Lori Kresse

New England Aster
Symphyotrichum novae-angliae

**I am covered with purple,
daisy-like flowers from late
summer to fall, making me
an important late-season
food source for pollinators. I
am a showstopper AND a
hard worker in the garden.**

**Hint: I am along a
little concrete path
close to a bench and
not far from a tiny
“house”.**

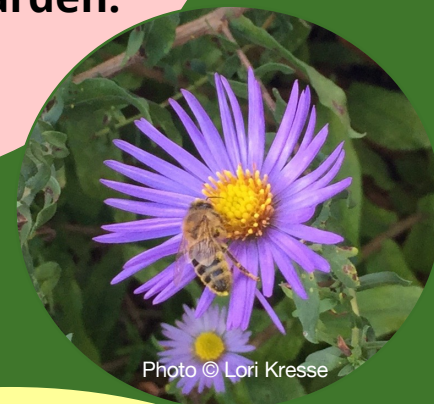


Photo © Lori Kresse

**Score 10
points for each
plant you find**



Photo © Lori Kresse

**I also support over 100
butterfly and moth
species, making me a
native plant superstar!**

BLOOM TIME: AUGUST TO OCTOBER

Location of New England Aster

The New England Asters are located throughout the sunny garden. This photo shows two along the path into the woods, not far from the shed that is decorated to look like a house.



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

Homestead Purple

Verbena canadensis

**I like to hug the ground and
spread out. My deep
purple/pink flowers begin in
late spring and last through
fall.**

**Hint: When you
come through the
main arch, walk
to the left and
look on the right.**



Photo © Maggie Webster

**I don't mind hot,
dry weather: I just
keep on blooming!**



Photo © Maggie Webster

BLOOM TIME: APRIL THROUGH AUGUST



Location of Verbena Homestead Purple

If you sit on the
bench, I'm right
across the way.

**Can
you find
me?**



Photo © Cindy Robertson

Coreopsis/Tickseed

Coreopsis verticillata

I'm a bushy plant with long, soft, slender leaves. My yellow flowers start to bloom in June and continue all summer long.



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



Photo © Cindy Robertson

Hint: If you sit on the wooden bench and look straight ahead, you will see me.

BLOOM TIME: LATE SPRING TO LATE SUMMER

Location of Coreopsis



This garden
is a public education resource
of Virginia Cooperative Extension
and is maintained by Extension
Master Gardener Volunteers.

I am near the Sunny
Garden sign.

As you enter under
the arch from the
parking lot, look to
your left.



Can
you find
me?

Score
10
points

Hydrangea 'Haas Halo'

Hydrangea arborescens

Fun fact: My name comes from two Greek words that mean 'water' and 'jar'.



Photo © Lori Kresse

I'm a tall plant with large, flat topped, white flowers. I'm in the sunny garden but I don't need much sun. I can also live in shade.

Hint: If you walk along the path towards the pollinator garden, I'm on the left.



Photo © Lori Kresse

BLOOM TIME: JUNE AND JULY

Location of Hydrangea 'Haas Halo'

You can see me as
you walk on the
path away from the
parking lot.



Can
you find
me?

Butterfly-weed

Asclepias tuberosa

Score 10
points to
find me!

You might see butterflies
around my bright orange
flowers. My leaves are
long, pointed and have
smooth edges.



Photo © Lori Kresse

If you get down close
to my stem, you can
see that it's covered in
tiny short hairs!



Photo © Maggie Webster

Hint: walk
through the
main arch and
look on your
left.



Photo © Lori Kresse

BLOOM TIME: JUNE TO AUGUST



Location of Butterfly Weed

You can see me as
you enter the
archway and look
to the left.

Can
you find
me?

Score 10
points to
find me!

Blue Wild Indigo

Baptisia australis

I am a plant in the pea family and am about 3 feet tall. I am a host plant to many butterflies and bees. My small blossoms are purplish/blue. I bloom in April and May, but you will see my large deep purple seed pods in late summer. Gently shake one. What do you hear?



Indigo is the name for a color of blue. Native Americans and early settlers to America used my flowers to make dye for fabrics.

Hint: I grow
near the paved
path in the
pollinator
garden.



Photo © Maggie Webster

Photo © Maggie Webster

BLOOM TIME: MAY AND JUNE



Location of Blue Wild Indigo

Blue Wild Indigo is
next to the large
white rock in the
pollinator garden.

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!

Can you find me?

Score 10 points to find me!

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

Hint: You can even find me standing in the parking lot (look to the left of the main arch)



Photo © Dan Mullen
CC BY-NC-ND 2.0



Photo © mitomi68
CC BY-NC 4.0

BLOOM TIME: AUGUST THROUGH FALL

Location of Obedient Plant



Obedient Plant is in a few locations in the garden. Enter through the arch and you will see some to your left. Keep walking and you'll see more to your right.



Score 10
points
for each
shrub
you find!

Virginia Sweetspire

Itea virginica

I am a showy, easy-to-grow shrub with spires of fragrant white blossoms in the spring and leaves of flaming red to orange in the fall. Birds hide in me and pollinators love me.

I prefer partial shade with moist soil. I can grow to 10 feet tall and 6 feet wide. I am not evergreen, but my leaves stay long into winter.

Hint: I am at the edge of the Sunny Garden near Lexington St.



Photo © Lori Kresse



Photo © Lori Kresse



Photo © Lori Kresse

Photo © Lori Kresse

BLOOM TIME: MAY TO JUNE



Location of Virginia Sweetspire

The Virginia Sweetspire is along the sidewalk that runs outside the sunny garden on Lexington Street.

Can
you find
me?

Score 10
points to
find me!

Brown-eyed Susan

Rudbeckia triloba

I grow in clumps and spread easily, so you can see me in many places throughout the Sunny Garden. My bright yellow-orange flower petals contrast with my dark brown-black center. Pollinators like my bright colors, so you might see bees and butterflies near me.



Photo © Maggie Webster

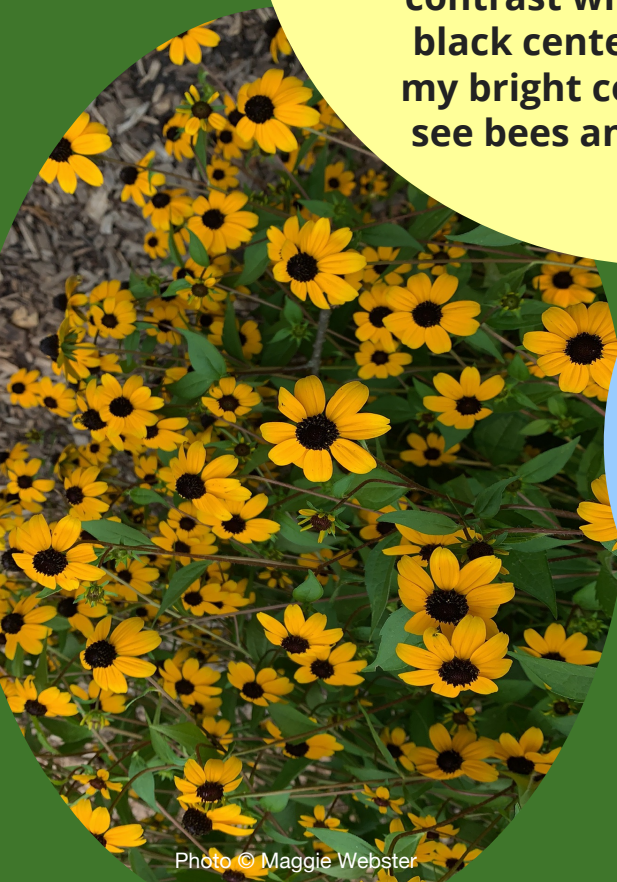


Photo © Maggie Webster

Count my petals on
one flower. How many
are there? Is it the
same for every flower?



Photo © Maggie Webster

Hint: Look for me near the
Sunny Garden sign near
the parking lot and near
the paved path in the
pollinator garden.

BLOOM TIME: JUNE TO OCTOBER

Location of Brown-eyed Susan

Brown-eyed Susan can be seen in several places in the garden near the parking lot and the pollinator garden.



Photo © Maggie Webster



Photo © Maggie Webster

Can
you find
me?

Score 10
points to
find me!

White Leaf Mountain Mint

Pycnanthemum albescens

I am about 3 feet tall and the tip of my stems often droop with the weight of the flowers when I am in bloom in late summer and early fall. My narrow leaves are light green and look powdery. Bees and other pollinators love to climb on and into my clusters of tiny white flowers.

Rub or crush one
of my leaves. Do
I smell minty?

Hint: When you stand in
front of the Sunny Garden
sign, look to your right
toward Lexington Street.
I'm about 5 feet tall.

Photo © Maggie Webster

Photo © Maggie Webster

Photo © Maggie Webster

BLOOM TIME: JUNE TO AUGUST

Location of White Leaf Mountain Mint



White Leaf Mountain
Mint grows in the garden
near the parking lot and
Lexington St.

the
Sunny
Garden

This garden
is a public education resource
of Virginia Cooperative Extension
and is maintained by Extension
Master Gardener Volunteers.

Can
you find
me?

Score 10
points to
find me!

Gayfeather

Liatris spicata

In July and August, you can see my purple/pink spiky flowers at the top of my stems with long, thin grass-like leaves. Each flower stalk is composed of many flowers that open over several weeks from the tip moving downward.



Photo © Maggie Webster

My common name is Gayfeather. Do you think I look or feel like a feather? My other common name is Blazing Star. Do you think I look like a star?

Hint: After you walk under the arch, look to your left. I can grow up to 4 feet tall and like to spread out.



Photo © Maggie Webster

BLOOM TIME: JULY AND AUGUST

Location of Gayfeather

Gayfeather grows just
inside the entrance to the
garden to the left of the
Sunny Garden sign.



Tally Your Points:

How many points did you score?
We hope you had fun! Come
back and visit in a different
season to see different plants in
bloom and tell your friends to
visit too!

0-50: ROOT LEVEL. Not bad. Come back for another visit and keep learning!

51-100: STEM LEVEL. Good job! You found many of the plants.

101-150: STEM AND LEAF LEVEL. Hurray! You found most of the plants.

151+: FULL BLOOM LEVEL. You found all the plants and earned some bonus points. You get the honorary plant lover award!

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

**Email: 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?**