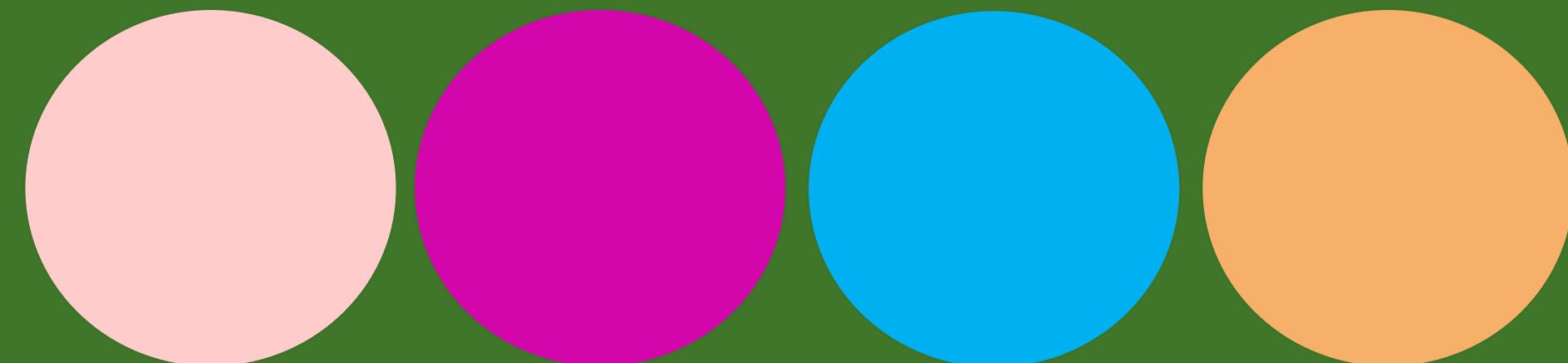


GLENCARLYN LIBRARY COMMUNITY GARDEN

NATIVE PLANT SCAVENGER HUNT

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

See if you can find all 10 native plants included in this scavenger hunt and earn all 100 points!



If you want
to play...

You must follow ONE big
important garden rule...

CAN YOU GUESS WHAT IT IS?

(10 bonus 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!

GREAT
JOB!

Collect 10 bonus points by
saying out loud, in two different voices:

"I will stay on the paths and
not harm the plants."

10
bonus
pts!

A FEW TIPS

Location
The garden has nine sections, focusing on: pollinators, herbs, dry sun, shade, natives, exotics, Asian plants, a memorial garden, and children's sensory garden.

Answers

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

There is no time limit.

Plant ID

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

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!

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.

Can you
find me for
10 points?



Hint: I like to
drop my seed
pods on the
parking lot
pavement.



Sweetgum *Liquidambar styraciflua*

I am a tree with glossy star-shaped leaves that turn red and yellow in the fall. I am famous for my spiky, gum-ball size seed pods that litter the ground as they drop from autumn to spring.

My prickly seed balls provide food for songbirds and small mammals like squirrels.



My twigs form scaly,
corky wings, leading
to my nickname
“alligator tree.”

Location of Sweetgum

Sweetgum – just on the other side of the fence from the parking lot.



Second sweetgum – give yourself 10 bonus points if you found both trees!



Sweetgum trees are low maintenance and tolerate a variety of soil types, just watch out for those prickly balls when barefoot!

Can you
find me for
10 points?

Winterberry *Ilex verticillata*

I produce prodigious quantities of berry-like fruit, called drupes, that are green in the summer and scarlet red from September to spring.



My berries
look beautiful,
but please
don't eat
them!



Look for my
greenish-white
flowers in June
and July.



Location of Winterberry

Winterberry – not far from the archway.



10
bonus
pts!

Bonus points if you found both locations!



'Red Sprite,' a female dwarf cultivar of Winterberry, needs the services of the male, 'Jim Dandy' to make fruit. Plant one male for up to 10 females.

Can you
find me for
10 points?



Look for my
panicles of small
white or pink
flowers that leave
lovely seedheads
for the birds.

Hint: I
make a
nice
border for
the brick
walkway.



Hairy Alumroot

Heuchera villosa

My five-inch-wide leaves
stay green through most of
the year.

I have airy plumes of small
white flowers that bloom from
June to October.



Location of Hairy Alumroot

The cultivar in this garden is “Autumn Bride,” which is known for its showy and long-lasting flower clusters.



The many cultivars of this species are excellent for edging walkways, en masse for shade gardens, or for erosion control.

Can you
find me for
10 points?

Horsemint, Spotted
Beebalm
Monarda punctata

I have yellow blooms with
purple dots surrounded by
lavender colored bracts
that grow almost
two feet tall.



I attract bees,
butterflies, moths,
beneficial wasps,
and hummers to
nectar and
songbirds to my
seeds.

Hint: I'm close to
the Sweetgum
tree with front row
vehicular viewing.



Location of Spotted Beebalm



Spotted Beebalm is located in the sunny hell strip bed along the parking lot.

Can you
find me for
10 points?



I am native
throughout
the mid-
Atlantic
region.



Christmas Fern

Polystichum acrostichoides

I am evergreen year-round, with leathery lance-shaped fronds. Some say my pinnae are shaped like Christmas stockings.



Hint: I
love
shade.

My silvery, scaled
fiddleheads emerge
in spring.

Location of Christmas Fern



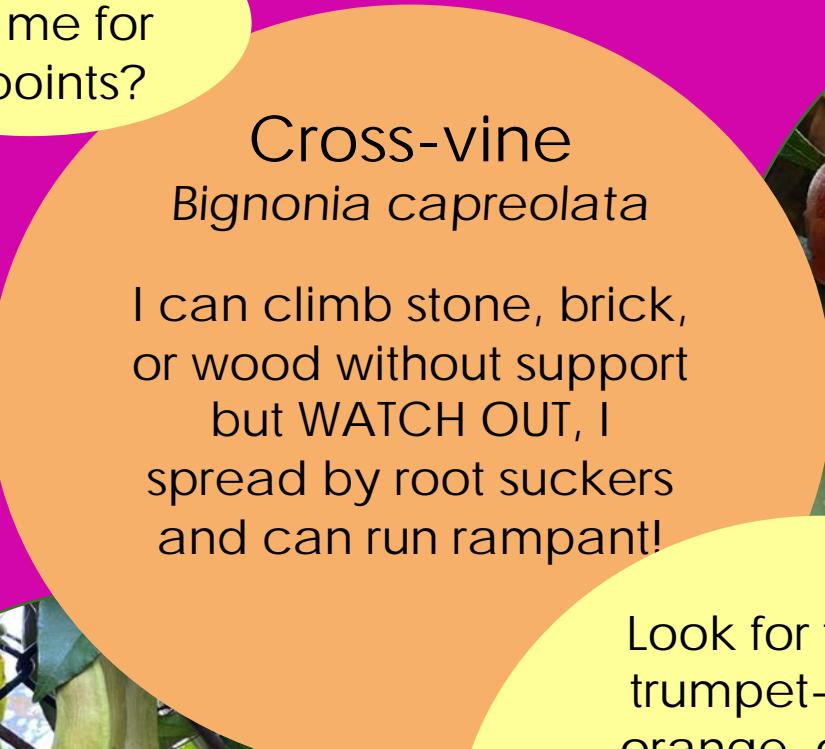
Christmas Fern is a forever plant, growing year after year in circular, cascading clumps.



Can you
find me for
10 points?

Cross-vine *Bignonia capreolata*

I can climb stone, brick,
or wood without support
but WATCH OUT, I
spread by root suckers
and can run rampant!



Look for fragrant,
trumpet-like red,
orange, or yellow
flowers from May-
June.

My flat green fruit
capsules mature to
brown from August
to October.



I flower best
in the sun but
after I bloom,
I need a
prune!



Photo © Elaine Mills



Photo © Elaine Mills

Location of Cross-vine



I attract butterflies, hummingbirds, and small mammals.

Can you find
me for 10
points?

Virginia Sweetspire

Itea virginica

Look for fragrant, showy,
four-inch spires of white
blossoms on long arching
stems from May-June.

I can grow 6-10
feet high and wide
and prefer partial
shade and wet soil.

I attract bees,
butterflies, wasps,
and birds.

My foliage
turns flaming
red, orange,
and burgundy
in the fall.



Photo © Elaine Mills



Photo © Elaine Mills



Photo © Elaine Mills

Location of Virginia Sweetspire

10 pts!

Virginia Sweetspire –
Henry's Garnet cultivar is
just to the left of the bench



Bonus points if you found both
locations! The taller, straight
species is located just behind
the partial chain link fence.

10
bonus
pts!



My green and red twigs and lingering
fruit capsules are beautiful in the winter.



Can you
find me for
10 points?



My ripe fruit,
seeds, and
young pads
are edible,
but watch
out, my
barbs hurt!

Eastern Prickly Pear

Opuntia humifusa



Fun facts: I have bright red fruit
(berries called tunas!) that ripen
from early spring to late fall.



My bright yellow flowers, 2-3
inches wide, bloom throughout
June and July, but each bloom
lasts only one day!



Hint: I love
dry, rocky
soil and full
sun.



I'm the most
wide-ranging
native cactus
in the United
States!

Photo © Elaine Mills



Photo © Elaine Mills

Location of Eastern Prickly Pear

Eastern Prickly Pear

10
pts!



My photosynthetic stems (pads) are dotted with tufts of barbed hairs (glochids). WATCH OUT - these glochids are hard to remove from skin and cause severe skin irritation!



Can you
find me for
10 points?

Switchgrass

Panicum virgatum

I once covered the tall-grass prairies of North America.

My arching green leaves turn yellow in the fall and tan in the winter.

Hint: I grow 3-6 feet tall and get cut back to eight inches in late winter.

My flowers are airy, pink-tinged panicles visible from July to February.

My roots grow up to 10 feet down, helping control erosion and stabilize the soil.



Location of Switchgrass



Switchgrass grows best in full sun and tolerates drought well.

Thank you for participating in our Glencarlyn Library Community Garden scavenger hunt!

Tally up your points (total of 140 points available) and let us know how you did and what you thought!

Email: mgarlalex@gmail.com

- Fun and educational?
- Ways to improve it?
- Other ideas for family-friendly fun?

