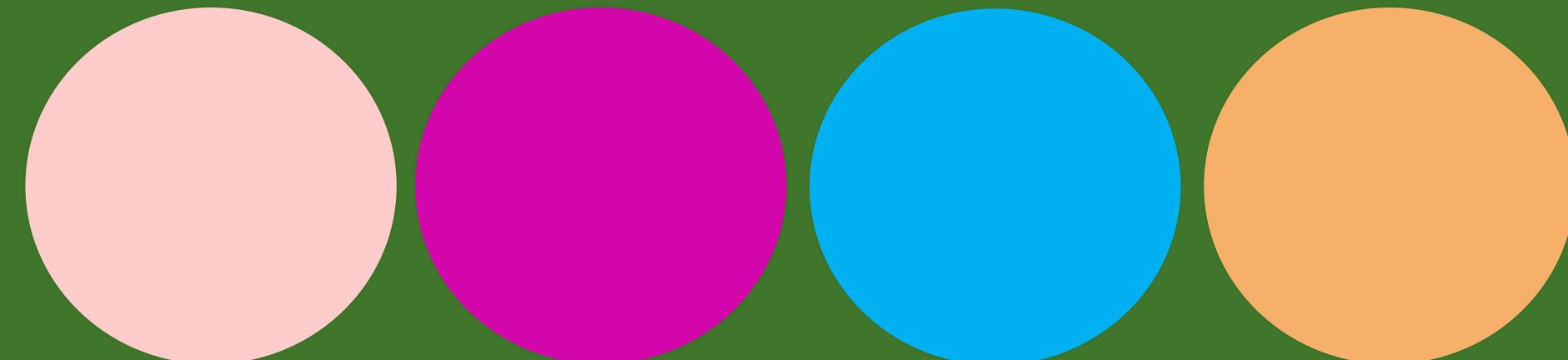


SHADE GARDEN NATIVE PLANT SCAVERGER HUNT

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 Shade Garden is one of the smallest demonstration gardens. Several of the plants have identification markers, but many don't.

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

If a plant you are looking for doesn't have a marker, you will have to 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.

Scoring

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

Can
you find
me?

Score
10
points

Oakleaf 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 6 feet tall!

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

Hint: If you face the entrance of the Shade Garden, look to the right along the trail.



Photo © Jacqueline Olsen



Photo © Jacqueline Olsen



Location of Oakleaf Hydrangea

Look near the red
handled waterspout.
You can also find me
along the path to the
Sunny Garden.

Can
you find
me?

Score
10
points

Eastern Redbud

Cercis canadensis

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

Hint: I am the
centerpiece of the
Shade Garden! If
I'm not flowering,
look for my long
seed pods.

Photo © Cindy Robertson

10 Bonus
Points if you
count 10
seed pods!

Photo © Leslie Filmore



BLOOM TIME: LATE MARCH TO EARLY APRIL



Location of Eastern Redbud

The Eastern Redbud is the
centerpiece of the
Shade Garden!

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.



Hint: I am near the entrance of the Shade Garden

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.



BLOOM TIME: MAY AND JUNE



Location of Virginia Sweetspire

The Virginia Sweetspire is along the path and by the entrance to the Shade Garden. I am the large shrub in the center of this photo.

Photo © Lori Kresse

Can you
find me for
10 points?



Fun Fact: Native Americans made medicinal tea from my leaves to treat asthma. They also ate the leaves in soups.



White Wood Aster

Eurybia divaricata

My small, white, daisy-like flowers look like delicate clouds when they bloom in late summer. I am a ground cover that grows from 1-1/2 to 2-1/2 feet tall.

Pollinators love my flowers, and winter birds enjoy my seeds.

Hint: You can find me under a tree not far from a bench.

Do you see how my leaves are shaped like hearts?



BLOOM TIME: LATER SUMMER TO EARLY FALL

Location of White Wood Aster

White Wood Asters are below the American Holly tree in the front of the Shade Garden. You can probably find them in other spots as well because they spread easily.



Photo © Lori Kresse

Can you
find me?

Score 10
points to
find me!

Black Cohosh

Actaea racemosa

My tall plumes of creamy white flowers, on wand-like stalks, bloom from May to July. Many say they smell bad, like medicine or stale popcorn, but some say they smell like grape soda! I am over six feet tall when mature.

My seeds develop in capsules from August to October and make a rattling sound when shaken.

Hint: you can find me along the path on the back hill of the Shade Garden.

Fun Fact: Black Cohosh root has long been used for medicinal purposes by Native Americans and physicians.

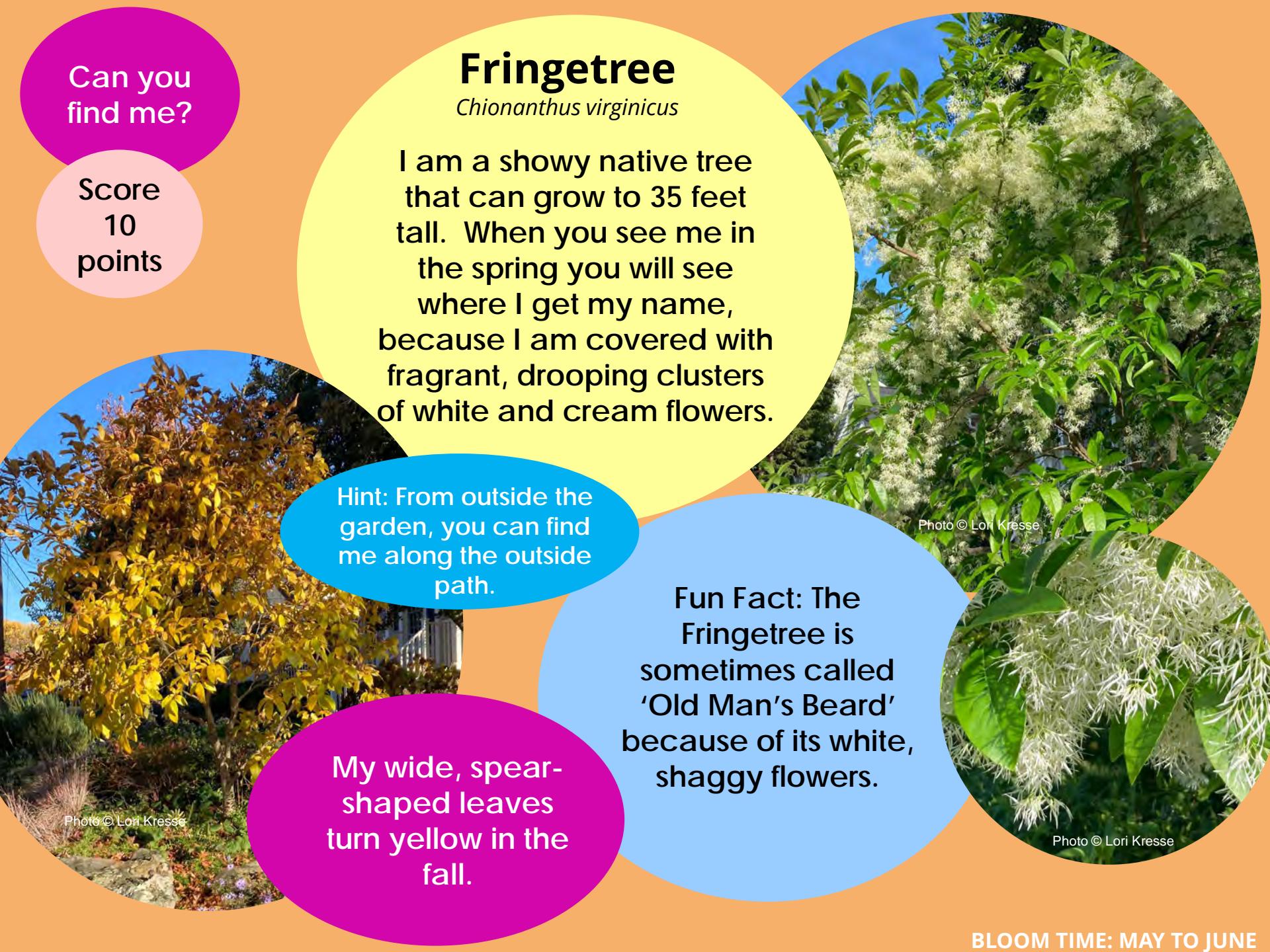


BLOOM TIME: LATE TO JULY



Location of Black Cohosh

The Black Cohosh plants are along a path at the top of the Shade Garden.



Can you
find me?

Score
10
points

Fringetree

Chionanthus virginicus

I am a showy native tree
that can grow to 35 feet
tall. When you see me in
the spring you will see
where I get my name,
because I am covered with
fragrant, drooping clusters
of white and cream flowers.

Hint: From outside the
garden, you can find
me along the outside
path.

Fun Fact: The
Fringetree is
sometimes called
'Old Man's Beard'
because of its white,
shaggy flowers.



Photo © Lori Kresse

My wide, spear-
shaped leaves
turn yellow in the
fall.



Photo © Lori Kresse

Photo © Lori Kresse

BLOOM TIME: MAY TO JUNE



Location of Virginia Fringetree

The Virginia Fringetree is along the path outside the Shade Garden, and can also be seen from inside the garden.

Can you
find me?



Golden Ragwort

Pachysandra aurea

I am a low ground cover that temporarily multiplies my height in the spring, when I sprout masses of yellow, daisy-like flowers on tall stalks. Pollinators flock to me because I am one of the earliest natives to bloom each year.

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



I am an aggressive self-sower. If you want to slow my spread, cut off my dandelion-like seed heads before they blow all over your garden.



BLOOM TIME: EARLY APRIL TO JUNE

Location of Golden Ragwort

The Golden Ragwort plants are throughout the Shade Garden, since they spread easily and are a ground cover that loves moist and shady spots. In this photo, the Golden Ragwort is at the entrance to the garden, in the bottom right corner under the tree.



Photo © Lori Kresse

Wild Ginger

Asarum canadense

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!

Can you find me?

Worth 10 points!

Hint: I'm in the Shade Garden to the left of the entrance, next to the bench.

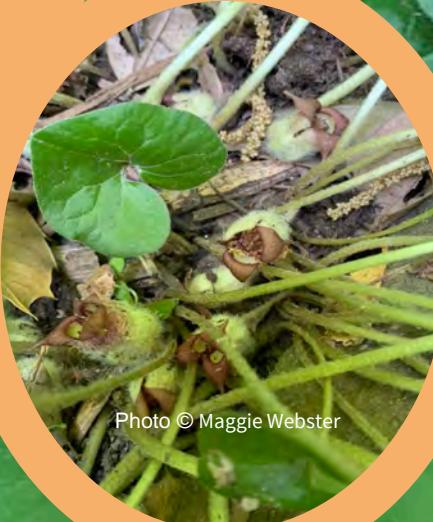


Photo © Maggie Webster

Location of Wild Ginger



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



Can you
find me?

Photo © Maggie Webster

Score 10
points for each
plant you find

Photo © Maggie Webster

Spiderwort

Tradescantia virginiana

I was named as “wildflower of the year” by the Virginia Native Plant Society in 2008. My blossoms are usually deep purple with a bright yellow pistil, but sometimes they are also white.

Hint: You will see
me in several
places in the
garden because
I spread easily.

Photo © Maggie Webster

Blooms open in the
morning and close up
in the afternoon, so I
look prettiest in the
morning.

BLOOM TIME: EARLY SPRING TO MID-SUMMER

Location of Spiderwort



Can you
find me?



Photo © Maggie Webster

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



Photo © Maggie Webster

Royal Fern

Osmunda spectabilis

I am one of the largest native ferns in North America and grow up to 6 feet tall. If you see me early in the spring, you will see my my “fiddleheads” before they unfurl. I can grow in partial sun, but I prefer to live in a shady space where the soil doesn’t dry out.

Hint: From the bench, look past the Eastern Redbud tree and you will see me on one of the garden terraces.

Ferns don't have seeds, but we have spores. My gold/brown spores appear above my leaves and look like tassels. I am also sometimes called Regal Fern.

BLOOM TIME: FRONDS EMERGE IN LATE APRIL OR MAY

Location of Royal Fern



Royal Fern in the Shade Garden

Can you
find me?



Photo © Maggie Webster

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



Photo © Maggie Webster

Shrubby St. John's Wort

Hypericum frondosum

I am a bushy plant with bright yellow flowers. Each flower has many stamens that form a little ball in the center. Bees love my pollen! I can grow up to 4 feet tall!



Photo © Maggie Webster

Hint: Before you enter the garden, walk to your left. I grow along the paved path. Look for the bees buzzing around my flowers!

I start to bloom at the end of June and continue through the fall. The "wort" part of my name means that I am a medicinal plant.

BLOOM TIME: JUNE TO MID-SUMMER



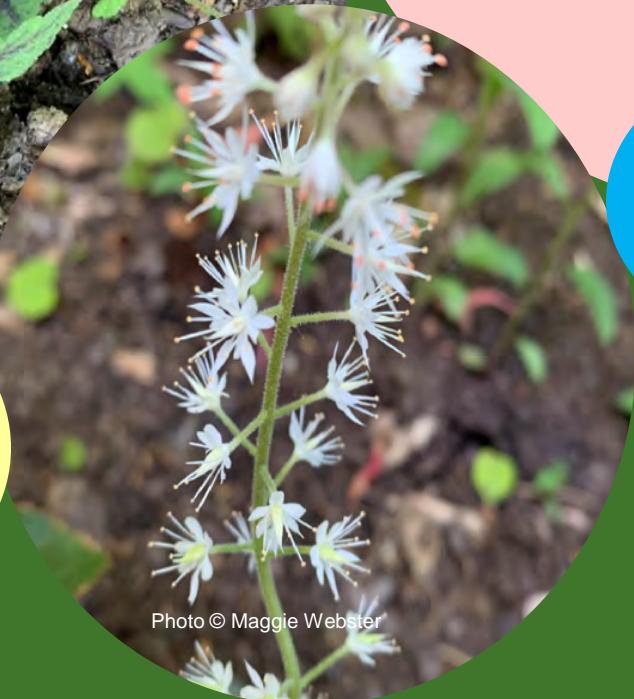
Location of St. John's Wort

I grow along the paved path.
Look for the bees buzzing
among my flowers.

Can you
find me?



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



Foamflower

Tiarella cordifolia 'Running Tapestry'

I'm a low-growing plant, so I'm not easy to see, but if you get down near the ground, you'll see how interesting I am! My dark green leaves have purple spots along the veins and my bright white flowers sit at the top of long, thin stems.

Hint: Walk up
the path to
the right and
look left.

My flowers are
shaped like tiny
stars and the
stamens are bright
orange.



BLOOM TIME: MID-SPRING TO MID-SUMMER

Location of Running Tapestry Foamflower



When you enter the garden,
walk up the steps to the right
side and look left.

Can you
find me for
10 points?



Photo © Maggie Webster

Hint: I grow along
the paved path.
Look to the left of
the Shade Garden
entrance.



Photo © Maggie Webster

Cup Plant

Silphium perfoliatum

I am one of the tallest plants in the Shade Garden. I can grow up to 8 feet tall, so look up to find my bright yellow flowers blooming in late summer and early fall. My leaves can grow up to 14" long! Look closely at my stem; it's square.



Photo © Maggie Webster

My common name is Cup Plant because the base of my leaves forms a little cup that collects rainwater for birds and insects.

BLOOM TIME: JULY THROUGH SEPTEMBER



Location of Cup Plant

The Cup Plant
grows along the
paved path.



Can you
find me?

Cardinal Flower

Lobelia cardinalis

If you come to the Shade Garden in late summer or early fall, you can't miss me! I'm a tall, bright red flower at the top of an upright stem. I can grow up to 6 feet tall! I am the same color as Virginia's state bird, the Cardinal.



Hummingbirds
love me and can
stick their long
beaks into my
flowers to drink my
nectar.

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

**Hint: Stand at the
entrance and look
up to the terrace
above the first wall.
You will see me in a
couple of places.**

Photo © Maggie Webster

BLOOM TIME: LATE JULY TO SEPTEMBER



Location of Cardinal Flower

Cardinal Flower is
near the back of
the garden.

Can you
find me?



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



Bottlebrush Buckeye

Aesculus parviflora

I am a tall shrub (I can grow up to 12 feet!) with large leaves that grow like fingers off the palm of a hand. You can see my tall feathery white flowers in June and July.

Bees love me but deer do not. In fact, my leaves are poisonous!



Hint: I grow well in partial shade. When you walk into the entrance, turn to your left. I am growing behind the bench, near the green toolbox. You can also see me from the paved path.

BLOOM TIME: JUNE TO JULY



Location of Bottlebrush Buckeye

Located behind the
bench, near the
garden toolbox.

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?

