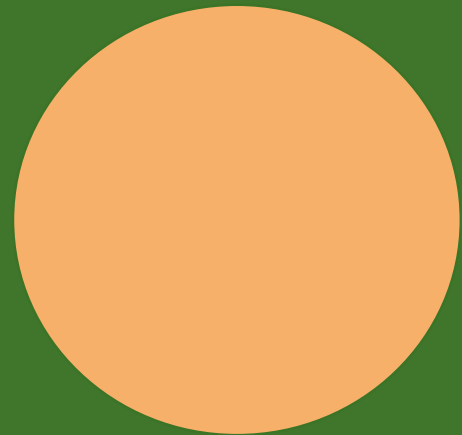
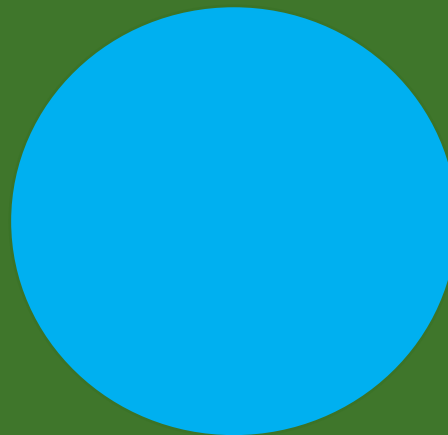
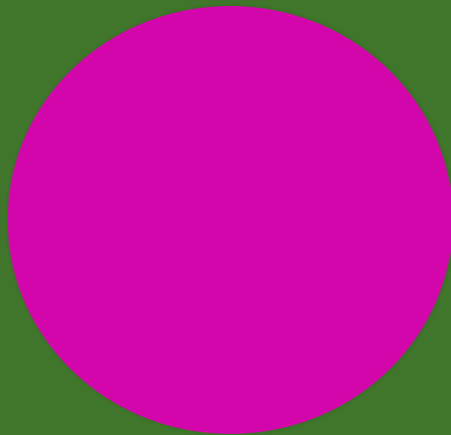
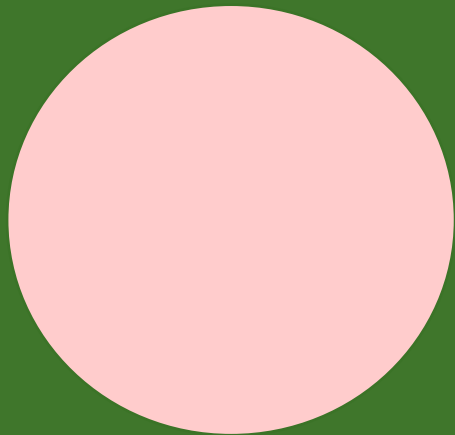


# SUNNY GARDEN NATIVE PLANT SCAVENGER HUNT

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.

## **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?  
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!**

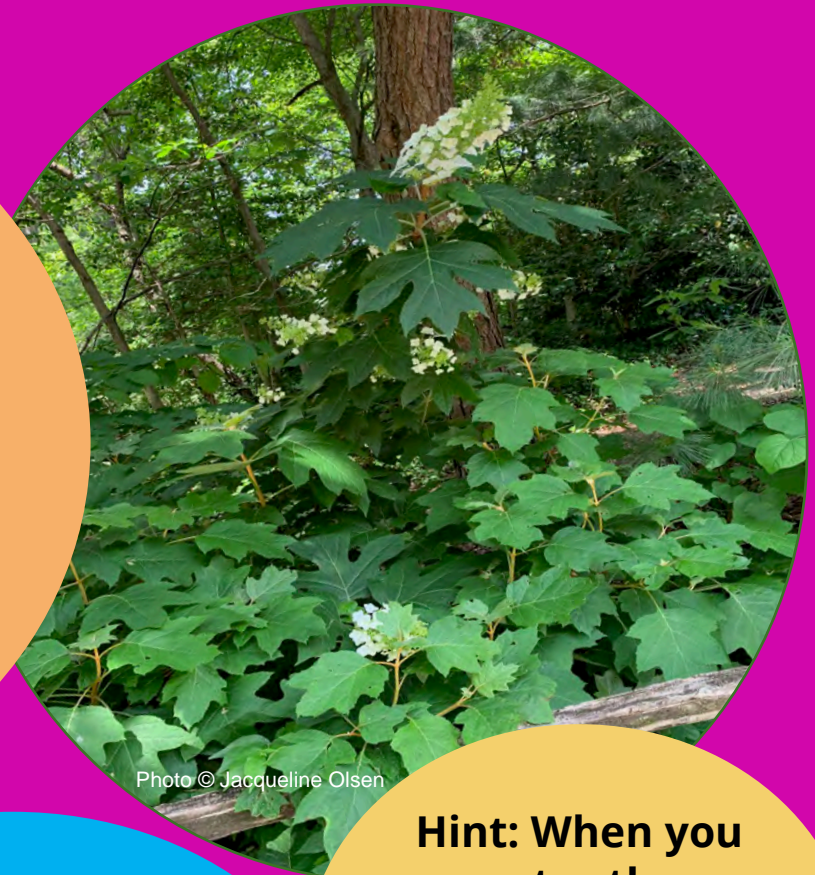


Photo © Jacqueline Olsen



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



Photo © Lori Kresse



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.**

**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.



Photo © Lon Kresse



Can you  
find me?

## **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".

Score 10  
points for each  
plant you find

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

Photo © Lori Kresse

Photo © Lori Kresse

Photo © Lori Kresse

**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.**

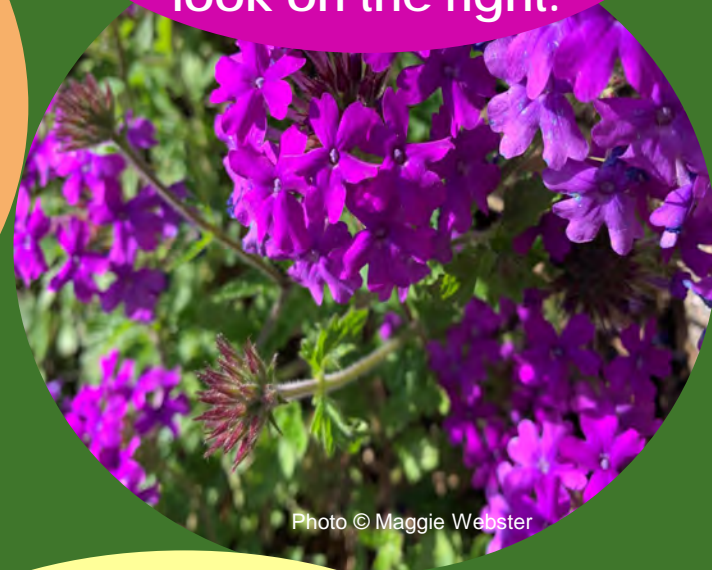


Photo © Maggie Webster

**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

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



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.



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  
works 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*

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

Score 10  
points to  
find me!



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

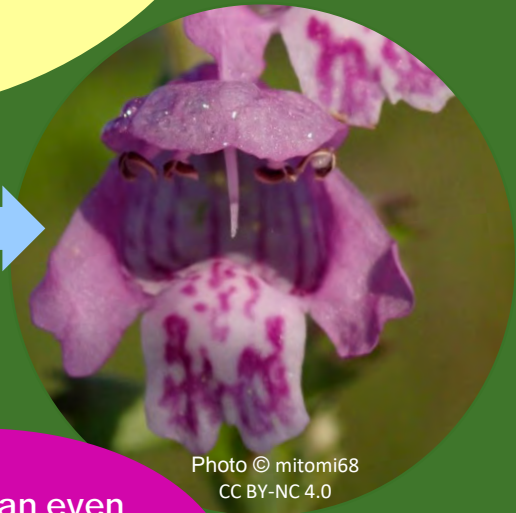
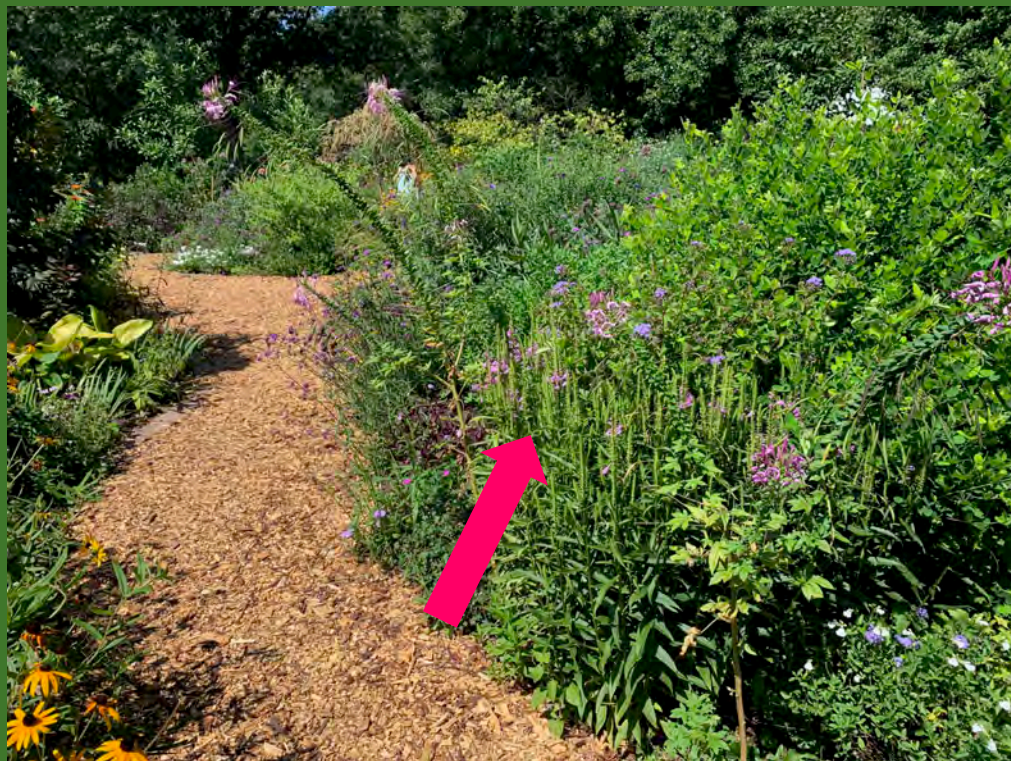


Photo © mitomi68  
CC BY-NC 4.0

**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

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

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

Photo © Maggie Webster

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.

**BLOOM TIME: JUNE TO AUGUST**

Photo © Maggie Webster

Photo © Maggie Webster

Photo © Maggie Webster



# Location of White Leaf Mountain Mint

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



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.



Photo © Maggie Webster



# 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](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?