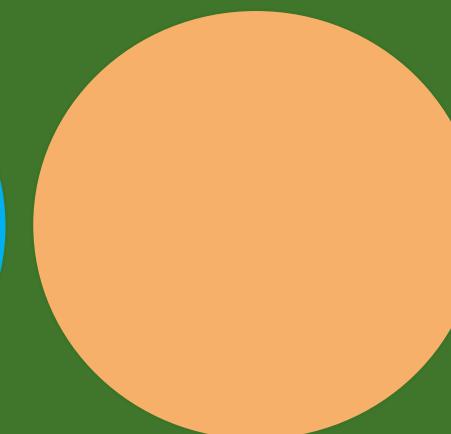
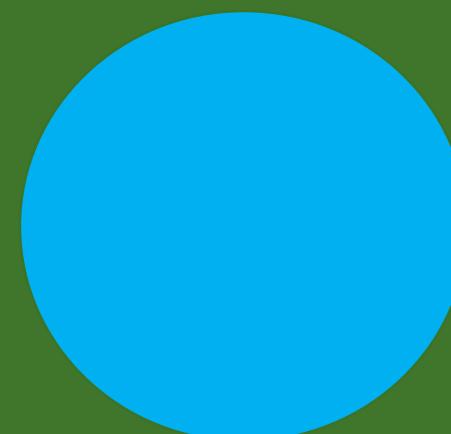
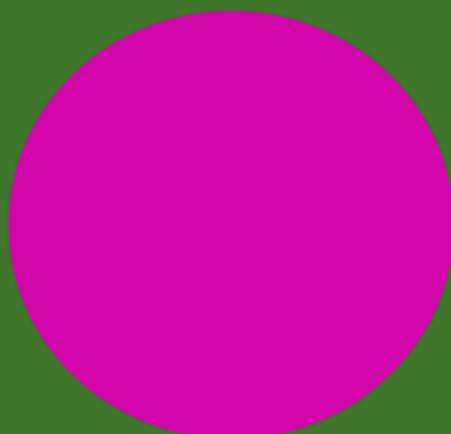
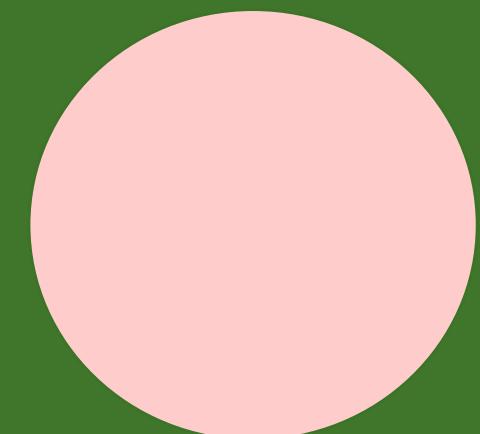


SUNNY GARDEN NATIVE PLANT SCAVENGER HUNT

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.

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.

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

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



Photo © Jacqueline Olsen

**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?



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

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.



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.



Photo © Lori Kresse

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.



Photo © Lori Kresse

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



Photo © Lori Kresse

Location of Little Bluestem



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

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.

Photo © Lori Kresse

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.

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”.

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!



Photo © Lori Kresse

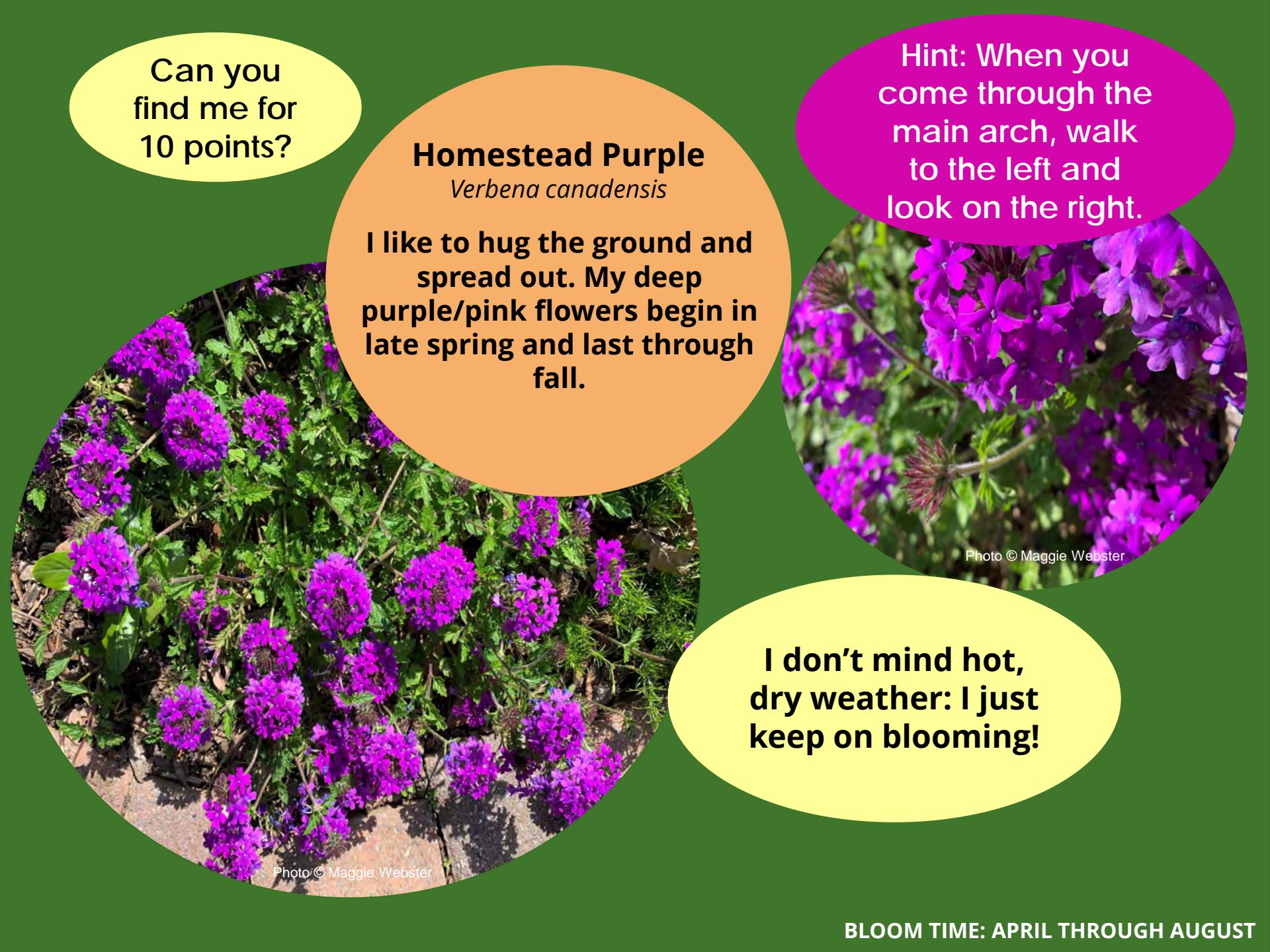
BLOOM TIME: AUGUST TO OCTOBER



Photo © Lori Kresse

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.

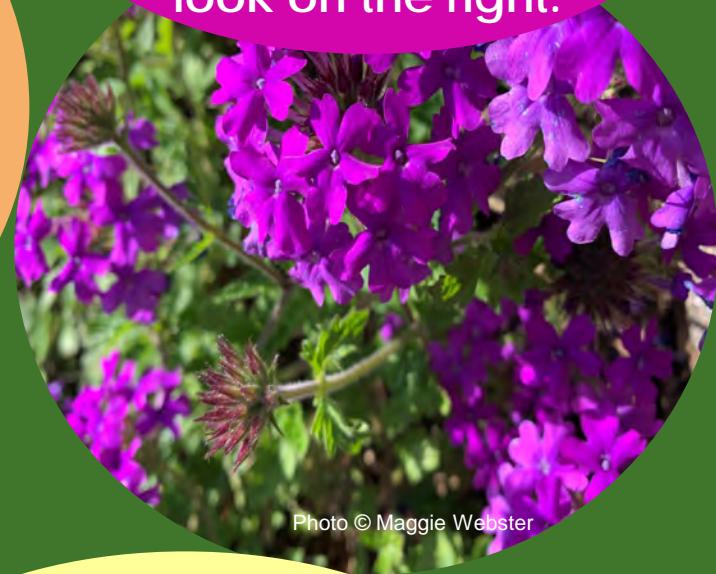


Photo © Maggie Webster

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



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'.

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.



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?

Score 10
points to
find me!

Butterfly-weed

Asclepias tuberosa

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!

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

Photo © Maggie Webster

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!

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

Can
you find
me?

Score 10
points to
find me!



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

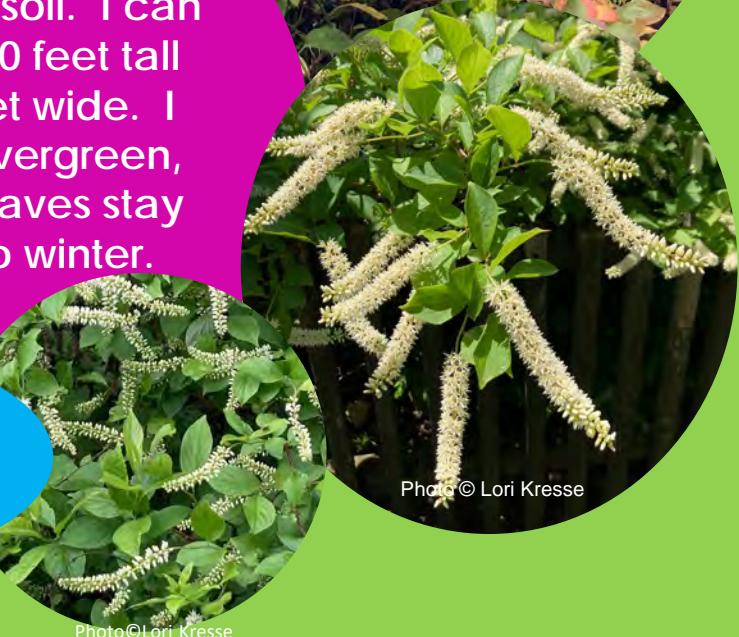
Itea virginica

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.



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

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.

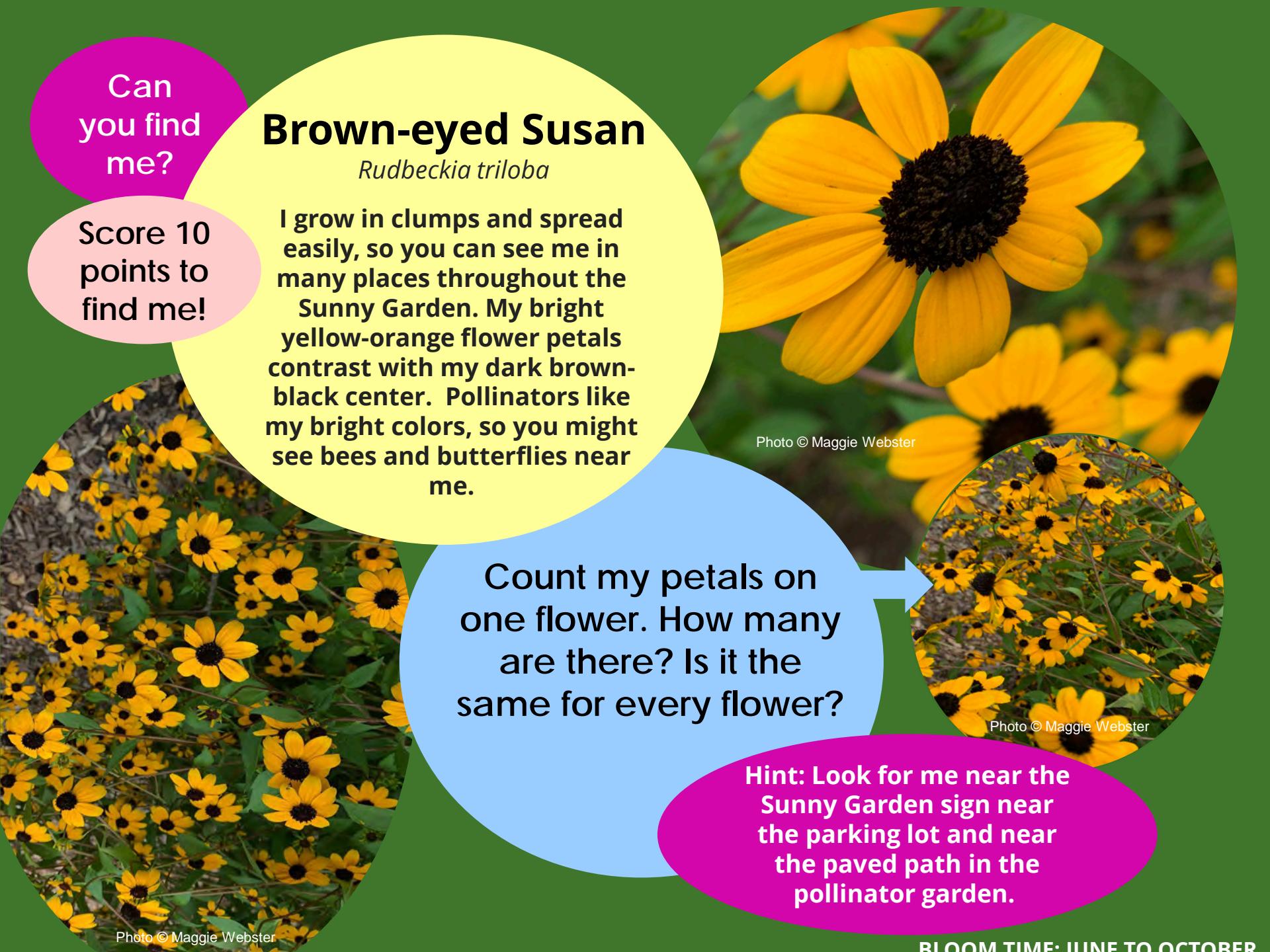


BLOOM TIME: MAY TO JUNE



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.

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

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

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?

Photo © Maggie Webster

Photo © Maggie Webster

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

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.

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.

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.



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?

