

What's In Bloom?

AT ADKINS ARBORETUM IN SEPTEMBER



Chrysopsis mariana (kry-SOP-sis mar-ee-AHN-ah) Maryland golden aster— Notice loose clusters of single, golden-yellow flowers blooming late summer into fall in old fields, woodland edges, and along roadsides. Grows 1 - 2 feet and readily self-sows. Found along the Arboretum's upland path and in the meadows.



Andropogon gerardii (an-dro-PO-gon jer-AR-dee-eye) big bluestem—This clump forming grass gets its name from a bluish color at the base of the stem. Growing 4-6 feet tall, it's taller than other grasses in the South Meadow. Flowers arranged in 3 dense clusters explain the common name, "turkey foot grass".



Sorghastrum nutans (sor-GAS-trum NEW-tanz) Indian grass—Look for the silky and soft, golden brown seed plumes of this plant in the autumn landscape. It may reach a height of 3 to 5 feet, the second most important tall grass next to Big Bluestem. It grows rapidly in well-drained soil. Found in the south meadow.



Euphorbia corollata (yew-FOR-bee-ah kor-oh-LA-ta) flowering spurge— Growing 2 to 3 feet tall, cloudlike panicles of small white flowers with green and yellow centers bloom on stiff stems from late summer to fall. Leaves are dark green. Resembles Baby's Breath, and self sows easily. These erect plants favor the South Meadow.



Gnaphalium obtusifolium (nah-FAHL-ee-um ob-too-sih-FOHL-ee-um) pearly everlasting—This 1 to 3 foot plant has branching clusters of white flowers that bloom into the fall on white, wooly stems. Gray-green leaves are fragrant when crushed. Used medicinally by Native Americans, it is also used in aromatic flower arrangements. Prefers dry sunny areas like the North Meadow.



Eragrostis spectabilis (ehr-ah-GROS-tis spek-TAB-il-iss) purple love grass— Found in the Arboretum's meadows and roadsides, it shows fluffy clouds of bronze red flowers in August and September. Short clumps of light green foliage in summer turn bronze red in fall. Very showy. Tolerates sandy soil and drought.

What's In Bloom? at Adkins Arboretum in September



Solidago altissima (sol-ih-DAY-go all-TIS-im-ah) tall goldenrod—Plants grow 3 to 4 feet tall and form colonies in meadows, fields, and along roadsides. Flowers gather into small heads and spread sideways to form a brilliant yellow “feather” on top of the stem. Insects may cause a gall, or a swelling, to form along the stem from which they feed. This is one of the most common goldenrods.



Oenothera biennis (ee-NOTH-er-ah by-EN-iss) common evening primrose—This entire plant can range from 1 to 6 feet in height with yellow 4-petaled flowers, 1 to 2 inches in size, which open fully at twilight in meadows. Its leaves are broad and lance shaped with sparsely toothed edges. Fluted seed pods are beautiful in winter.



Chamaecrista fasciculata (kam-ah-KRIST-ah fah-sik-yew-LA-ta) partridge pea—This pea plant relative’s bright yellow flowers grow from the leaf axils yielding long, narrow seeded pods which ripen by late October, burst open and scatter. Fern-like leaves grow on branched, reddish stems. Seeds are valuable winter food for bobwhite quail. Found in the meadows and near the Children’s Council ring.



Asclepias syriaca (ah-SKLEE-pee-us seer-ee-AH-kah) common milkweed— Easily identifiable in summer by fragrant pink pompoms of blossoms which are a nectar source for many butterflies. Leaves are also food for monarch butterfly larvae. In fall, seeds bearing white hairs emerge from warty pods and float everywhere. Commonly found in the Arboretum’s meadows.



Phytolacca americana (fy-toh-LAK-ah amer-ih-KAN-ah) pokeweed—Long, drooping clusters of fruits ripen in late summer. Berries contain a vivid crimson juice. The plant may grow to be as tall as 9 feet, and the dark, purplish fruit clusters make it easily identifiable. Found along woods and meadow edges where sun aids the fruit ripening.



Rudbeckia hirta (rud-BEK-ee-ah HER-ta) black-eyed Susan—This familiar plant is a member of the huge aster family, and is known by its typical daisy like flower head on an erect, bristly stem. It may grow as tall as 3 feet, and flowers produce from summer until mid autumn in fields, meadows, along garden borders and roadsides. It is the state flower of Maryland.