

ELLIPSE GARDEN SELF-GUIDED TOUR

1 NATIVE PLANT GARDEN

This garden features trees, shrubs and perennials that grow well in Tidewater Virginia. All species in this area are native to Virginia. Those at the end adjacent to the Patriotic Meadow occur in (but aren't necessarily restricted to) the mountainous part of the state. Mountain laurel is found throughout Virginia.

- These plants have been selected for their easy adaptability in the residential landscape and as alternatives to some non-native species offered by local garden centers.
- For more information on plant species, see the companion brochure or visit our website

www.williamsburgbotanicalgarden.org.

Spring Perennials

Beardtongue
Blue-eyed Grass
Columbine
Coral Bells
False Indigo
Foamflower
Labrador Violet
Spiderwort
Sundrops
Wild Blue Phlox

Trees/Shrubs

Arrowwood
Beautyberry
Buttonbush
Dogwood
Elderberry
Fringetree
Magnolia
Redbud
River birch
Serviceberry
Sourwood
Summersweet
Sweetspire
Winterberry
Red Maple
Tulip Poplar
White Oak

Summer Perennials

Asters
Beebalm
Black-eyed Susan
Blazing Star
Blue Mistflower
Blue Vervain
Coneflowers
Goldenrods
Hibiscus
Joe Pye Weed
Milkweeds
Sunflowers

Fall Grasses

Lovegrass – WBG Sign
Purple Muhly – Entrance
Reed Grass – Perennial Border
River Oats - WBG Sign
Switchgrass- Butterfly Garden



2 WILDFLOWER MEADOWS

These two areas are a dense mass of color, changing weekly. Species were chosen for vibrant, long-blooming plants.

- A) The Patriotic Meadow was seeded with red, white, and blue-blooming plants. This area is representative America's Anniversary Garden
- B) The Wildflower Meadow is densely planted with a southeast wildflower meadow mix of plants such as Black-eyed Susan, Blue Mist, and many Sunflowers. The flowering plants are interspersed with native grasses to help control weed growth.

3 BUTTERFLY GARDEN

Most of the plants were chosen for their beauty and nectar supply, but the milkweeds are also hosts for larvae of the Monarch butterfly.

- While the caterpillars of most butterflies were developing in the nearby native trees, the Great Spangled Fritillary prefers Violets, and the Pieris Crescent lays its eggs on nearby asters.
- The butterfly bushes are heavily covered with Swallowtails – Black, Tiger and Zebra. Butterflies such as Buckeye, Blue, Painted Lady and Sulphur are sipping nectar on the Blazing Star, Coneflower, and Black-eyed Susans.
- Good photo opportunities!

4 WETLANDS

Two swales permit the growth of plants that need constantly moist soil.

- Meadow-beauties bloom in pink profusion summer through fall. Look for Hibiscus, Blue Iris, and Cardinal Flower. Tall Goldenrod, Aster, Bonesets, and Woolgrass flower later.
- A rare Beakrush sedge, *Rhynchospora globularis*, never before found on the Virginia Peninsula is also present.

5 HERB GARDEN

Interested citizens donated plants and their expertise to establish an area along the patio with representative herbs that grow well in Tidewater Virginia.

- Look for Thyme, Rosemary, Sage, Sorrel, Chives, Lavenders, Fennels, Mints, Basils and many others.

6 PERENNIAL BORDER GARDEN

On the far side of the patio, James City County/Williamsburg Master Gardeners have installed perennials and ferns, most of them chosen as Perennial Plants of the Year.

- Plants blooming summer through fall include Blanket Flower, Fire Pink, Coneflower, Salvia, Black-eyed Susan and Pincushion Flower.

7A OLDER PINEWOODS

This is the original pine woodland area, with many native plants such as Rattlebox, Partridge-berry, Sweet Goldenrod, Rough-leaved Goldenrod, Dangleberry and Pink Lady's-slipper.

- Young hardwoods such as Tulip Poplar and Sweetgum are coming up underneath the pines.

7B YOUNG PINEWOODS/FERNERY



Members of the Williamsburg Wildflower Rescue Team have transferred rescued plants into this area.

- Native ferns such as Broad Beech, Christmas, Cinnamon, Virginia Chainfern, Netted Chain, Royal, and Sensitive are prominent along the walkways.
- Several species of Asters and Goldenrods bloom just outside this area in late summer.

8 NATIVE GRASSES

Near the entrance sign are Purple Muhly and three species of tall Switchgrass. These grass seedheads furnish food for birds and wildlife and add winter interest to the landscape. Their tall spiky stems and leaves add another dimension to the garden

WILLIAMSBURG BOTANICAL GARDEN

