

Monthly Plant Guide August 2010

Gardenia ‘Kleims Hardy’ (gardenia)

Fragrance is one of the most sensuous ways to experience a garden. Enjoy the alluring scent of gardenia at a number of locations throughout the garden, beginning in our Courtyard of Tranquility where you’ll find three small, unassuming looking evergreen shrubs with creamy white star-shaped flowers. These winter hardy plants produce exquisitely fragrant flowers in summer with sporadic flowering into autumn. (MAP A)

Pinellia tripartita (voodoo lily, green dragon)

While species of this genus are native to China, *P. tripartita* is an herbaceous perennial native to southern Japan. This diminutive Arum relative has attractive arrow- or heart-shaped leaves. Its oddly charming flower has a green, hooded spathe and extended, whiplike spadix. You’ll find our specimen situated between two fragrant *Gardenia* in the Courtyard of Tranquility. (MAP B)

Oxalis crassipes (vinegar juice plant, sorrel)

A profusion of cheerful pink flowers rest on a bed of clover-like foliage, greeting visitors from under the shelter of the *Osmanthus heterophyllus* ‘Variegatus’. Although not a Chinese native, *Oxalis crassipes* is very much like sorrels grown in the gardens of China, evoking a similar aesthetic. (MAP C)

Hydrangea aspera var. *macrophylla* (velvet leaf hydrangea)

Native to China, this fuzzy leaved hydrangea is a relatively new addition to our collection. Its wonderful lace-cap flowers emerge in summer lending additional softness to this already cozy-looking shrub. The showy ring of white “flowers” are actually sterile and can change color, depending on the pH level in the soil. (MAP D)

Lysimachia paridiformis var. *stenophylla*

O.K., so the name is a tongue twister, but just look at this thing! Dan Hinkley, former proprietor of Heronswood Nursery in Kingston, WA, collected this vigorous, easily-adapted perennial in 1998, during one of many botanical expeditions to China. Handsome mounds of evergreen foliage sport dense clusters of golden yellow flowers atop each leaf. Lovely trailing stems become pink with age. (MAP E)

Magnolia delavayi (mountain magnolia)

China is the country with the greatest number of magnolia species and in ancient times they were so highly regarded that only the emperor was entitled to grow them. Seldom seen in the U.S., this plant has multi-lobed flowers which are part of what make it a rarity, and they are among the largest blooms in the magnolia family. The species name honors Jean Delavay, a French missionary and prolific plant collector who botanized extensively in the hinterlands of China’s Yunnan province two hundred years ago. (MAP F)

Punica granatum ‘Nana’ (flowering pomegranate)

This dwarf selection of pomegranate is in an enormous brown pot in the Courtyard of Tranquility. The pomegranate has been widely used in Chinese gardens since its arrival from the Middle East nearly 2,000 years ago; its native range is from Iran to the Himalayas in northern India. Delicate, tissue paper-like petals burst out of thick, tubular, red-orange calyces. ‘Nana’ will produce the classic

red fruit but due to their small size, they're not customarily eaten. The fruit, with its abundant seeds, has long been a symbol of fertility for the Chinese. 'California Sunset' is an ornamental cultivar bred for its blowsy, double, coral flowers. **(MAP G)**

***Hypericum* 'Hidcote' (St. John's wort)**

This under-celebrated workhorse provides our landscape with throngs of animated yellow flowers in summer. *H. 'Hidcote'* is thought to be a hybrid of garden origin and while not the type commonly found in Chinese gardens it is an excellent, garden-worthy ambassador for the genus. By way of comparison, Portlanders are more familiar *Hypericum calycinum*, a species that is often used as a groundcover in landscapes throughout the city. In addition, *Hypericum* has recently been popularized in the West as a natural approach to treating depression. The root has long been used in Chinese medicine. **(MAP H)**

***Musa basjoo* (hardy fiber banana)**

Several stands of this atypically hardy banana are planted throughout the garden. Arching leaf blades may reach ten feet. Pale yellow flowers in summer are followed by small, green fruits of about 3" in length. It is used primarily for ornamental effect—its fruits are inedible—and will grow to a height of fifteen feet. Medieval Chinese poets praised the banana for the beauty of its long, undulating leaves and pendulous flowers. They were also captivated by the sound of wind and rain against them. The banana is also an emblem of self-education. Lacking paper, impoverished students once wrote on its leaves. As with several other species of banana, the stems of *Musa basjoo* also provide fibers used in the manufacture of textiles. **(MAP I)**

***Rosa chinensis* 'Mutabilis' (Chinese twelve month rose)**

Named for its tendency to bloom year around in temperate climates. This single flowering, bi-color rose bears loose, cup-shaped flowers which change from light yellow to peach and then to pink. *R. chinensis* 'Mutabilis' was used in the development of hybrid tea roses in England during the 19th century. **(MAP J)**

***Ginkgo biloba* 'Heksenbezen Leiden'**

A dwarf form of China's national tree, in time it will reach up to 10 feet tall. **(MAP K)**

***Schizophragma* (climbing hydrangea)**

This deciduous, woody-stemmed, climbing vine has silvery, blue green heart-shaped leaves and flat topped, lace cap hydrangea-like flowers of creamy white. Our shade-loving friend makes its way up masonry and walls with the greatest of ease. Stem-borne adhesive rootlets do not harm these surfaces. The entire affair turns yellow and drops its leaves in winter at which time measures can be taken to prune it back if desired.

***Schizophragma hydrangeoides* 'Moonlight' (MAP L)**

***Schizophragma integrifolium* var. *fauriei* (MAP L1)**

***Schizophragma* 'Roseum' (MAP L2)**

***Nandina domestica* heavenly bamboo)**

Grown in China for centuries *Nandina*, was used to decorate alters. A great plant for all seasons, with elegant foliage often splashed with red and purple, white flowers in the summer, followed by red berries in the fall. **(MAP M)**

***Dichroa febrifuga* (evergreen hydrangea)**

These hydrangea relatives are semi-evergreen with dark green, deeply veined leaves. In late spring, large mopheads of petite buds open into masses of tiny, star-shaped blooms. In more acid soils these flowers are the most incandescent of blues. Flowering continues through the summer. Come autumn,

branches are weighted with pendulant clusters of miniature pink fruits that segue into metallic blue bb's by late winter. (MAP N)

Anemone 'Prinz Heinrich'

A. 'Prinz Heinrich' is a vigorous, semi-evergreen herbaceous perennial which spreads by creeping rhizomes. Semi-double, rose-pink flowers with golden yellow stamens rise up on wiry green stems from August through October. These dainty flowers with their trifoliate, slightly hairy leaves are a wonderful accompaniment at the base of large trees. (MAP O)

***Tricyrtis 'Togen'* (toad lily)**

This is one of our favorites given its mid- to late summer bloom time. Flowers are lavender with yellow throats and dark purple spots. Visitors often compare them to orchids. Foliage is similar to false Solomon's seal with oblong, deeply veined leaves. (MAP P)

Gardenia 'Chuck Hayes'

Originating as a seedling selected by Charles Hayes of Cavalier Nursery in Virginia, this cultivar possesses as much fragrance as less hardy types and is reportedly more cold tolerant than other Gardenias. (MAP Q)

***Vitis cignetiae* (crimson glory vine, ornamental grape)**

Covering the eastern wall of the fragrance courtyard this grape vine is living up to its common name. Acting as a lush green backdrop most of the year, in the fall its glowing red foliage warms the courtyard. The grape was brought to China in 128 BCE although it took until the Tang dynasty before the Chinese began making and drinking wine. (MAP R)

***Trachelospermum jasminoides, T. jasminoides 'Variegatum'* (rock net jasmine)**

An evergreen, ever-present climber in Chinese gardens of all stripes, *T. jasminoides* scrambles over root and rock in a net-like fashion. It blooms throughout the summer producing an abundance of small, scented white flowers. (MAP S)

Poncirus trifoliata 'Flying Dragon'

'Flying Dragon' is a very stout, dwarf, contorted form of *Poncirus trifoliata*, with twisted, bright green new growth and long, curved thorns measuring up to 4 inches, lending the entire shrub a menacing appearance. 'Flying Dragon' is slow-growing and widely used as dwarf understock for other citrus species. A marvel at any time of year, its crimson and yellow foliage make it a great plant for fall too. (MAP T)

Impatiens omeiana (Mt. Omei impatiens)

Introduced in 1983 by Dr. Jon Jacobs of Georgia, this herbaceous perennial is a welcome addition to any deep shade area. The red and green foliage makes it a great contrast companion. In late fall, small bell shaped yellow flowers grace the plants growth tips. It was collected from Mt. Emei, in southeastern Sichuan Province, a place that has long been a favorite of plant hunters and Buddhist pilgrims. (MAP U)

***Albizia julibrissin* (silk tree)**

This large tree has delicate, fern-like foliage and pin cushion-like pink flowers. Its light sensitive leaves fold up at night. For this reason, one of the Chinese common names for this plant is the 'shut happy' tree: the perfectly folded leaves represent a happy and contented couple tucked away in bed together. (MAP V)

***Citrus ichangensis* (Ichang lemon)**

Hidden away under the two flowering plum trees on the east wall of the Scholar's Courtyard, this hardy citrus' branches hang heavy with its dark green lime-like fruit. Its sharp long spines ward off all but the most daring from its harvest. Growing 5 to 8 feet tall our specimen is reaching maturity. Its fruit are more acidic and seedy than common lemons and have historically been used more to scent rooms than for food. Its hardiness has made it valuable in hybridization of other citrus varieties.

(MAP W)

***Magnolia grandiflora* (southern magnolia)**

This evergreen tree is a southeastern U.S. native. It was enthusiastically adopted into Chinese horticulture long ago and is used extensively in both public and private gardens in China. Foliage is densely packed. Glossy leaves are richly complemented by cinnamon-brown undersides. (MAP X)

***Lilium* cvs. (asiatic lilies)**

Having spent the better part of the spring reaching ever higher in search of the sun, our Asiatic lilies are in bloom. With cultivar names like 'Black Dragon', 'Moonlight', 'Pink Perfection, and 'Golden Splendor,' there's no shortage of options with this plant. You'll find ours planted throughout the Garden, providing additional, color interest during summertime. (MAP Y)

***Rosa* 'Sevillana'**

Developed by the illustrious House of Meiland Roses in Le Luc En Provence, France, *Rosa* 'Sevillana' is one of the more maintenance free roses. Although it aspires to be a large shrub, we keep it pruned given the space limitations of the garden. Regardless, it blooms profusely throughout the summer and fall adding a festive red. The Chinese landscape professionals who designed our garden chose *Rosa* 'Sevillana' for precisely this reason. (MAP Z)

***Persicaria* (Himalayan knotweed)**

'Red Dragon' is an herbaceous perennial with velvety, ovate leaves of intense wine-purple, dramatically marked with mint-green and silver chevron patterning. Stems reach 2 to 4 feet high and are wine-red. In its wild form, it is found in several Chinese provinces, as well as Bhutan, northeast India, Nepal, and Sikkim.

P. microcephala 'Red Dragon' (MAP 2)

P. virginia 'Brush Strokes' (MAP 2a)

***Hibiscus syriacus* (rose of sharon)**

The flowers of this deciduous mallow family member are exotic, alluring, and plentiful. Trumpet-shaped blooms have a deep red 'eye' in the center. Lavender-pink petals are slightly wrinkled and three-lobed leaves are coarsely toothed. The leaves are occasionally used for tea in China and the petals are sometimes eaten as a vegetable. This east Asian native came to the West via the Middle East, hence the reference to Syria in the species name. (MAP 3)

***Magnolia champaca* (white orchid michelia)**

This movable feast for the nose is contained in a decorative ceramic pot in front of the Tower of Cosmic Reflections. This broadleaf evergreen has been widely planted in the tropical and subtropical regions of southern China for millennia. Flowers are white, somewhat inconspicuous, but deeply fragrant. Prepare to be spirited away as so many of our Southeast Asian visitors have been upon meeting this old friend in such a faraway place. (MAP 4)

***Punica granatum* 'California Sunset'**

'California Sunset' is an ornamental cultivar bred for its blowsy, double, coral flowers. Delicate, tissue paper-like petals burst out of thick, tubular, orange calyces in June and July. The pomegranate has been widely used in Chinese gardens since its arrival from the Middle East nearly 2,000 years ago—

its native range is from Iran to the Himalayas in northern India. The fruit, with its abundant seeds, has long been a symbol of fertility among the Chinese. **(MAP 5)**

***Lespedeza thunbergii* (bush clover)**

Arching slender branches clothed in blue-green leaves with silver accents are the perfect foil for soft purple, pea-like flowers. This vigorous shrub creates a fountain effect as it cascades into the water from a small island located at the west end of the Zig Zag Bridge. A shore pine shares this lone bed, acting as an emerald green beacon visible from vantage points all along the water's edge. **(MAP 6)**

Metapanax delavayi

Tucked in between the daylilies and the St. Johns wort you will find this evergreen shrub, native to China and in the Ginseng family. **(MAP 7)**

***Kirengeshoma palmata* (yellow waxbells)**

This hardy, woodland perennial is grown as much for its maple-like leaves as for its flowers which are produced in late summer when other woody favorites begin to dull. Yellow flowers are borne in sprays on wiry stems that bend under their own weight. Blooms resemble a single-flowered Japanese anemone not fully opened. **(MAP 8)**

***Lagerstroemia indica* (crape myrtle)**

This Chinese native was a favorite ornamental tree during the Tang dynasty (618-906 AD) when it was a common sight on palace grounds in the capital. Its placement may reflect the symbolic association of *L. indica* with high governmental positions. As a garden plant, *L. indica* is admired for its dense clusters of crinkled blooms in white, pink, mauve, or purple. Its lengthy flowering cycle peaks during the height of summer heat and is honored by the Chinese common name 'One Hundred Days Red'. Mottled bark peels away from the smooth-as-silk trunk. Our specimens include the white-flowering 'Natchez' and the red-flowering 'Tuscarora'. **(MAP 9)**

***Rebmannia elata* (Chinese foxglove)**

A recent planting, this perennial has large bright pink flowers with yellow throats that will continue to bloom up until fall. In time flower stalks can reach up to 3ft and the rosettes of leaves will form a nice ground covering mat. **(MAP 10)**

***Bletilla striata* , *Bletilla striata* f. *alba* (ground orchid)**

This terrestrial orchid is very easy to grow in the Portland area. Native to China, Japan, and Korea, its distinctly pleated leaves are accented with scapes of delicate white or lavender flowers. The Chinese common name for *Bletilla striata*, 'white chicken,' refers to the appearance of its fleshy white roots. Outstanding lavender, deep purple, and white-colored blooms can be seen throughout the Garden.

Bletilla striata f. *alba* has a variegated leaf. **(MAP 11)**

***Magnolia* 'Ann'**

The grand dame amongst our magnolia collection, the gnarled branches and stooped posture of this particular specimen evokes a feeling of reverence. *Magnolia* 'Ann' was a product of the U.S. National Arboretum world-renowned, magnolia breeding program. One among a group of hybrids called 'Eight Little Girls', 'Ann' and her 'sisters' were developed from species known for their hardiness, late season blooms, and prolific flowering. True to form, our specimen has been flowering with abandon for several months. Its flowers, reddish purple at the base and paling towards the tips of the petals, are lush and plentiful. **(MAP 12)**

***Begonia grandis* ssp. *evansiana* (hardy begonia)**

Pendulant flowers are a soft, rose-pink, translucent and somewhat frosted. They tumble gracefully downward against lovely triangular leaves with prominent red veins underneath. Foliage is especially

showy when backlit by late afternoon sun. *B. grandis* emerges later than most perennials in the spring. **(MAP 13)**

***Itea yunnanensis* (Chinese sweetspire)**

This Chinese native stands tall in the corner along the west wall with glossy evergreen leaves. Graceful racemes of white catkin-like flowers dangle down. **(MAP 14)**

Dianthus chinensis

Dianthus was a favorite botanical motif of Chinese painters in the Ming and Qing dynasty. This perennial cultivar has bright-pink flowers and further adds to the colorful charm of the Haven Island bed. **(MAP 15)**

Indigofera amblyantha

A recent planting, this young deciduous shrub with golden yellow new leaves, which will age to blue-green and erect racemes of pink flowers will bloom until fall. **(MAP 16)**

***Belamcanda chinensis* (blackberry lily)**

This deciduous perennial is a lily family member with a very iris-like appearance. It sports bright orange flowers accented by maroon spots. The seed capsules will split in the fall to reveal clusters of shiny black seeds that resemble elongated black berries. **(MAP 17)**

***Nymphaea* sp. (water lily)**

Aquatic plants are an integral part of waterways in traditional Chinese gardens. Most commonly seen are lotus and water lilies. Water lilies have somewhat heart-shaped leaves that rest flat on the water's surface. Flowers float complacently among them, creating a counterpoint to the lotus, which holds its leaves and flowers high above the water's surface. **(MAP 18)**

Nelumbo* (Lotus) *Coming soon!

Perhaps one of the most stirring sights for visitors to our Garden is the presence of lotus during the summer months. The enormous circular leaves of the lotus are held aloft and shed water like silvery beads of mercury. Immense flowers hover overhead revealing large, cone-shaped seed pods when petals fall away. The distinctive fragrance and grace of the lotus flower has inspired many generations of Chinese poets and artists. It is imbued with the notion of integrity, rising from the mud and traversing murky waters only to reveal an untainted, flawless bloom. **(MAP 19)**

***Campsis grandiflora* (Chinese trumpet creeper)**

With flamboyant, rich orange to red trumpet-shaped flowers, *C. grandiflora* is aptly named for its immense and showy flowers which appear in August and continue through out the summer and early autumn. This vigorous deciduous climber is native to China and clambers with long, twining branches along the wall in our outer, northeast bed. **(MAP 20)**

***Lysimachia congestiflora* 'Persian Chocolate'**

Native to China, this groundcover is a handsome mass of rich purple leaves. Come summer it is covered with yellow flowers. **(MAP 21)**

**Join our Horticulturist for a walk thru the Garden on the first Friday of every month at
3:00 p.m. for a Bloom walk
August 6**

**For a complete list of activities go to
www.lansugarden.org**

Plant Map August 2010

