



Monthly Plant Guide February 2010

***Clematis arandii* 'Appleblossom'**

To the right of the blossom-shaped doorway in the Courtyard of Tranquility, a rapidly climbing vine busies itself trying to summit the drip tiles with a profusion of fragrant white flowers trailing in its wake. *C. arandii* is a Chinese native and has proved to be a very tenacious garden companion despite the fact that clematis was historically overlooked in traditional Chinese gardens of this sort. **(Map A)**

***Edgeworthia chrysantha* (Chinese paper bush)**

This deciduous shrub or small tree is a relative of sweet daphne. In winter, frosty silver buds break open to round clusters of intoxicatingly fragrant, golden-yellow flowers dangling from the tips of bare branches. Oblong, velvety leaves of deep green follow in spring. The Chinese made paper from *E. chrysantha* by pounding flat the stems and bark. Interestingly, the grade of the paper varied depending on the elevation at which the plant was collected. Gardeners in China have also been known to train the flexible branches of *E. chrysantha* into artful knots. **(Map B)**

'Rubra' (Map B2)

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

Several stands of this atypically root hardy banana are planted throughout the garden. It is used primarily for ornamental effect—its fruits are inedible—and will grow to a height of fifteen feet. In order to protect the fibrous stalks from freezing they have been wrapped for the winter. Medieval Chinese poets praised the banana for the beauty of its long, undulating leaves and pendulous flowers. The banana is also an emblem of self-education. Lacking paper, impoverished students would practice calligraphy on its leaves instead. As with several other species of banana, the stems of *Musa basjoo* also provide fibers used in the manufacture of textiles. All parts of the plant have been harvested for use in traditional Chinese medicine. **(Map C)**

***Nandina domestica* (heavenly bamboo)**

This plant is native to southeastern China and has been cultivated in Chinese gardens for centuries. This evergreen shrub has feathery, bamboo-like foliage that emerges pinkish- to bronzy-red in spring, turning dark green in summer. Then cold weather turns foliage purple-red or brings about bronze highlights, followed by fiery red colors. Crops of shiny red fruit appear from May thru December. This plant was used for decorating alters, hence the common name. **(Map D)**

***Forsythia x intermedia* 'Lynwood Gold'**

This stunning bloomer is a Chinese garden favorite. This particular cultivar is of garden origin, but records show that the Chinese were cultivating species of this plant at least as far back as the Tang dynasty. It has a long history as a classical Chinese Garden plant as well as in gardens throughout the world. **(Map E)**

***Jasminum nudiflorum* (winter jasmine)**

Look for arching green stems with a frenzy of small, brilliant yellow blooms throughout the Garden at the lake's edge. Flowers give way to glossy green, trifoliate leaves in spring. Though without scent, this jasmine compensates with exceptional hardiness, providing year-round interest in more northerly climates. *Jasminum nudiflorum* is a ubiquitous Chinese garden plant cultivated since ancient

times. **(Map F)**

***Daphne odora* 'Aureomarginata' (winter daphne)**

The original Chinese name for this daphne is 'sleeping scent'. Legend has it that a monk fell asleep beneath the cliffs of the ancient and venerated Lu mountain. There he dreamt of an impossibly sweet fragrance. On awakening, he found that he had pillowed his head next to *Daphne odora*. This evergreen shrub explodes with clusters of pink flowers in winter. Its rich, orange blossom-like scent perfumes the air throughout the garden. The cultivar 'Aureomarginata' has glossy green leaves with creamy yellow margins. **(Map G)**

***Loropetalum chinense* 'Hine's Purpleleaf' (Chinese fringe flower)**

This evergreen shrub is a witch hazel family member. Flowers arrive in a flurry in April and continue sporadically, through summer into fall. Fringe-like blooms are lurid pink. The cultivar 'Hine's Purpleleaf' has burgundy-colored foliage. **(Map H)**

***Kerria japonica* 'Pleniflora' (ditang flower)** Native to China, this reliable spring and fall bloomer is as steady as the day is long, with brilliant golden yellow flowers running the length of arching, bright green, cane-like branches. The double blooms of 'Pleniflora' are dense and round. The Chinese have cultivated this popular garden plant longer than anyone can remember. It is often found in older gardens in the Portland area as well. **(Map I)**

***Lonicera modesta* var. *lushanensis* (Lushan winter honeysuckle)**

This deciduous to semi-evergreen shrub produces tubular white flowers that run the length of rambling, vine-like branches during winter. Blooms are followed by red berries. Its fresh and remarkably sweet fragrance can be detected even on the most nose-numbing days of cold and rain. Spring brings forth emerald green foliage and vigorous growth. **(Map J)**

***Poncirus trifoliata* 'Flying Dragon'**

'Flying Dragon' is a very stout, dwarf, contorted cultivar, with twisted, bright green new growth and long, curved thorns measuring up to 4 inches long, lending the entire shrub a menacing appearance. 'Flying Dragon' is slow-growing and is widely used as a dwarf understock for other citrus species. A marvel at any time of year, especially in winter when the architecture of its bare branches can really be appreciated. **(Map K)**

***Rohdea japonica* (ten thousand years green)**

Rohdea japonica is a truly unflappable member of the lily family and has something to offer throughout the year. Its long, thick leaves form low rosettes. In spring, it produces greenish-white flowers arranged in short, dense spikes. Bright red, tightly clustered fruits follow in winter and are nothing short of spectacular. The Chinese traditionally grow single specimens of *R. japonica* in pots, and they are given as gifts on special occasions. In our Garden, it is most often planted in masses in the landscape. **(Map L)**

Camellia grijsii

This rare winter-flowering species of camellia blooms with great fanfare in our garden. *C. grijsii* produces a profusion of dainty, single white flowers with wavy, heart-shaped petals. **(Map M)**

***Camellia japonica* 'Drama Girl'**

Five inch, semi-double flowers are deep salmon-pink. Petals may be streaked with pale pink. This is

most often a natural trait whereas other species of camellia may exhibit similar variegation, but generally as the result of a virus. Flowers occur January to May in the northern hemisphere and are long lasting. **(Map N)**

***Prunus mume* (Japanese flowering apricot)**

Native to China and Japan. Densely packed clusters of pink blossoms enfold bare branches. Step up close and be enticed by their spicy fragrance. *P. mume* is long-lived and will become gnarled and picturesque with age. Arguably one of the most culturally significant plants in China, *P. mume* is also the floral symbol of the first lunar month and one of the 'Three Friends of Winter' given its ability to flower in the midst of snow and ice. Its fruits are likened to beautiful women and the flower's five petals represent the five blessings of longevity, health, wealth, love of virtue, and a natural death.

(Map O)

'Kobai' (Map O2)

'Alba' (Map O3)

***Chaenomeles japonica* 'Atsuya Hamada' (quince)**

Collected in the wild by northwest plantsman, Roy Davidson. Smoldering, deep red flowers are translucent when backlit by the setting sun. Quince have long been grown in Chinese gardens and are also used for Chinese-style bonsai. They frequently appear in Chinese paintings. Their characteristic arrangement of short-stalked flowers on bare branches are evocative of the Asian aesthetic in art. **(Map P)**

***Chaenomeles japonica* 'Contorta' (quince)**

This cultivar only grows to 4 feet and has a unique growth habit. Its stems, flowers, thorns and fruits are all contorted. The flowers are white fading to pink. **(Map Q)**

***Camellia japonica* (mountain tea)**

According to tradition, the camellia is an auspicious symbol during the Chinese New Year. *Camellia japonica* is native to both Japan and China and cultivars have long gone back and forth. In addition, it is the most commonly cultivated species of camellia in China and generally the only one found in her gardens. Considered an evergreen shrub or small tree, *C. japonica* produces single, deep pink flowers over a period of 6 to 8 weeks during the latter part of winter. Blooms dazzle against a backdrop of glossy, evergreen foliage. **(Map R)**

Narcissus cv

A classic Chinese flower, Narcissus are traditionally displayed for Chinese New Year, symbolizing wealth and good fortune in the coming year. The art of bulb carving has been practiced in china for centuries, creating fanciful shapes with curved stunted growth. Look for them displayed in the buildings throughout the Garden. **(Map S)**

***Sarcococca confusa* (sweet box)**

Sweet, indeed! Emitting a delicious, sweet scent from profuse clusters of tiny, narrow, white flowers, this evergreen boxwood relative is an indispensable plant for entryways and courtyards, where its fragrance may be appreciated in the late winter. Adding to its appeal now are shiny black fruits that appear up and down the branches. **(Map T)**

Camellia transnokoensis

Glossy, deep green leaves resemble the foliage of Oregon's native huckleberry. Flower buds with dainty red bracts clasp ivory-colored capsules which are flushed with red at the tips. Diminutive blooms are 1"-2". Find a specimen growing against the wall at the northwest corner of the Boat-shaped Pavilion where the path turns. **(Map U)**

Camellia 'Quintessence'

With single, blush pink gently scented flowers, this low, slow-growing shrub sprawls beside the walkway that meanders along the garden's west wall. Its form tends to stump visitors who expect camellias to be a bushier, more upright shrub. **(Map V)**

Outer Planting Beds:

Eriobotrya japonica (loquat)

This handsome tree is native to southeastern China and a member of the rose family. Growing up to 25 feet tall, its evergreen leaves are veined, dark and glossy on the top, while underneath they have golden velvet fuzz. It's a prolific bloomer in the fall and winter with panicles of up to 100 sweetly scented flowers. **(Map W)**

Camellia 'Korean Fire'

This large, evergreen shrub with glossy dark-green foliage has medium-sized, bright-red flowers that burst forth with bright yellow stamens. 'Korean Fire' is considered one of the hardiest among cultivars of the species *C. japonica*, surviving to -12°F. **(MAP X)**

Festival of Fragrance

March 20th to 31st

Spring Plant sale

March 20th and 21st

Please join our Horticulturist on the first Friday of the month at 3:00
for a Bloom walk
February 5
March 5

For more information about Lan Su Chinese Garden, please visit
www.lansugarden.org or call 503.228.8131.

Plant Map
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