



College Gardens Park Plant Guide

By: Meghan Washington Troop 5721

Table of Contents

Trees.....	3
Shrubs.....	4
Grasses.....	9
Perennials.....	13
Map.....	17
Map Key.....	18
Survey Results.....	19
Sources.....	20

The College Gardens Park was renovated in 2009 to include a new storm water management pond. All the plants used in the redesign are native to the Mid-Atlantic Region. This guide presents pictures and information for the native plants as well as a diagrammed map showing the placement of these plants throughout our park. Also, the survey provided compares the original number of each species planted in 2009 to how many survived after their first winter. All the plants in this guide are deer resistant and non-invasive which helps protect our local ecosystem.

Trees

Canadian Serviceberry
Amelachier Canadensis



Height: 15-25 feet or more. Blooms with white or pink flowers in the spring, edible fruits in the summer, and pretty fall color. Can be planted in full or part sun with well-drained acidic soil.

Kentucky Coffee Tree
Gymocladus dioica



Height: 60-70 feet. Large leaves have small leaflets. The bark curls into scaly ridges. Fragrant greenish white flowers bloom in late May or June. Females bear woody pods.

Shrubs

Sweetbay Magnolia
Magnolia virginiana



Height 15-60 feet. Has spicy-scented leaves and fragrant white flowers in the summer. Tolerates wet soil and shade.

Blue Sedge
Carex gluaca



Height: 1-1½ feet. Spread: 1 foot. Blooms from July to August with greenish white flowers. Easily grown in medium to wet soil and also part shade to full shade.

Buttonbush
Cephalanthus occidentalis



Height: up to 15 feet. Spread: 4-8 feet. Grows upwards with white flowers blooming in the spring. Can be planted in any soil but needs lots of moisture. Ducks and water birds consume the seeds. It can be planted in full sun to partial shade, unfortunately the lifespan is short.

Red Chokeberry
Aronia arbutifolia 'Brilliantissima'



Height: 6-10 feet. Spread: 3-5 feet. Small white spring flowers and in the fall vivid foliage with fruits. Good for mass plantings and casual borders. Plant in full sun to partial shade.

Cardinal Red-twig Dogwood
Cornus sericea 'Cardinal'



Height: 6-9 feet. Spread: 8-12 feet. Blooms with white flowers from May to June. Best in full sun or part shade and is best grown in rich, wet soils. It attracts birds and butterflies. Good use as a hedge.

Shamrock Inkberry
Ilex glabra



Height: up to 8 feet. Spread: 3-4 feet. Native to eastern wetlands but tolerates ordinary garden conditions. One of the hardiest evergreen hollies. Needs pruning to stay compact and dense. Can be planted in full sun or partial shade.

St. John's Wort
Hypericum calycinum



Height: 1-1½ feet. Spread: 1½-2 feet. Flowers are present off and on from June to September. Usually dies back to the ground in the winter but quickly recovers in the beginning of spring. Good ground cover and plant in full sun or partial shade.

Summersweet Clethra
Clethra alnifolia



Height: up to 9 feet. Spread: 4-6 feet. Spreads slowly to form a clump of upright stems, each topped with a spire of small white flowers. Leaves out in late spring. Should be kept in full or part sun. Prefers moist, fertile soil but can tolerate flooding and poor drainage.

Henry's Garnet Virginia Sweetspire
Itea virginica



Height: 3-5 feet or more. Spread: 4-6 feet. White flowers and bright green leaves in midsummer. Scarlet in the fall. Grows well near ponds and streams, needs moist fertile soil. Can be planted in full sun to partial shade.

White Bell Heath
Erica x darteynesis



Height: 6-9 inches. Spread: 1 foot. Flowers over a long season from winter to spring and tolerates any weather and any soil. Keep in full or part sun but good drainage is most important.

Grasses

Winterberry
Ilex verticillata



Height: up to 9 feet. Red berries are ripe in fall and last into winter. Native to wetlands and so tolerates poorly drained soil. Plant in full sun or partial shade, but for females more sun means more fruit.

Blue Switch Grass
Panicum virgatum



Height: 3-6 feet. Spread: 2-3 feet. Easy to grow and adaptable. Grows straight up. This type has a blue tint to the stalks. From July to fall it has airy masses of flowers on the tips. Must be planted in full sun.

Dwarf Fountain Grass
Pennisetum alopecuroides



Height: 3-4 feet. Spread: 1½-2 feet. The leaves are dark green in the summer and warm apricot almond, or orange in the fall. Flowers from July to October with many fluffy spikes. Very good as ground cover. Full sun or part shade, but cut back in February or March.

Feather Reed Grass
Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Karl Foerster'



Height: 5-6 feet. Spread: 1½-2½ feet. Forms vertical clumps of slender leaves with tall flower stalks that develop in June and last until winter. Needs to be cut back in the spring but can be planted in full sun or partial shade.

Mist Grass
Muhlenbergia capillaries



Height: up to 3 feet. Spread: 3 feet. It has a rounded clump at the bottom with foliage radiating out of it. No flowers but it has wispy plumes strands at the tips of the foliage. Does well in full sun or part shade. Cut back finished foliage in late winter before new growth emerges.

Karley Rose Fountain Grass
Pennisetum orientale



Height: 1-2 feet. Spread: 2-3 feet. Spikes of light purple flowers grow above the clump of foliage on ground-level. Full sun or partial shade is best.

Red Switch Grass
Panicum virgatum



Height: 3-6 feet. Spread: 2 feet. Easy to grow and adaptable. Grows straight up. This type has a red tint to the stalks. From July to fall it has airy masses of flowers on the tips. Must plant in full sun.

Ribbon Grass
Phalaris arundinacea



Height: 2-4 feet. Spread: 1½-2 feet. Pretty but is invasive for it can grow into other areas set aside for other plants. Useful as ground cover. Grows in any soil. Must cut it back in midsummer to renew foliage. Can be planted from sun to shade.

Perennials

Silver Variegated Sedge
Carex morrowii



Height: 1 foot Spread: 1-1½ feet. The yellow and green striped leaves brighten dark shady areas or the edges of ponds and rock gardens. Easy to grow too. Plant in partial to full shade.

Black Eyed Susan
Rudbeckia fulgida 'Goldsturm'



Height: 1½- 2½ feet. Spread: 2 feet. Full of color from the summer into fall. They must be cut and gathered often for the more you pick the more it blooms. Must plant in full sun.

Blue Flag Iris
Iris versicolor



Height: 1½- 2½ feet. Spread: 1½-2 feet. The blue flowers open for 2-3 weeks in late spring. The leaves grow quite tall and look like cattails in the summer. Grows best in shallow water or beside garden ponds, but can also grow in ordinary beds. Trouble free and can grow in full sun to partial shade.

Goldenrod
Soldago rigida



Height: 1-5 feet. Spread: 1-2 feet. Have leafy stalks and clusters of gold flowers in late summer to fall. Should be planted in full sun but may spread too fast in rich soil.

Joe-Pye Weed
Eupatorium maculatum



Height: 5-9 feet. Spread: 2-3 feet. Clusters of tiny pinkish purple flowers top the stalks in late summer, gradually fading to pinkish beige and lasting through the fall. Needs full sun and fertile, moist soil. Cut stems back in late spring and in late winter to increase by division.

Moonbeam Coreopsis
Coreopsis verticillata 'Moonbeam'



Height: 2-3 feet. Spread: 1½-2 feet. A dense clump on the ground with pale yellow flowers and feathery foliage.. Good for a border or meadow and needs to be in full sun. with good drainage

Purple Cone Flower
Echinacea purpurea



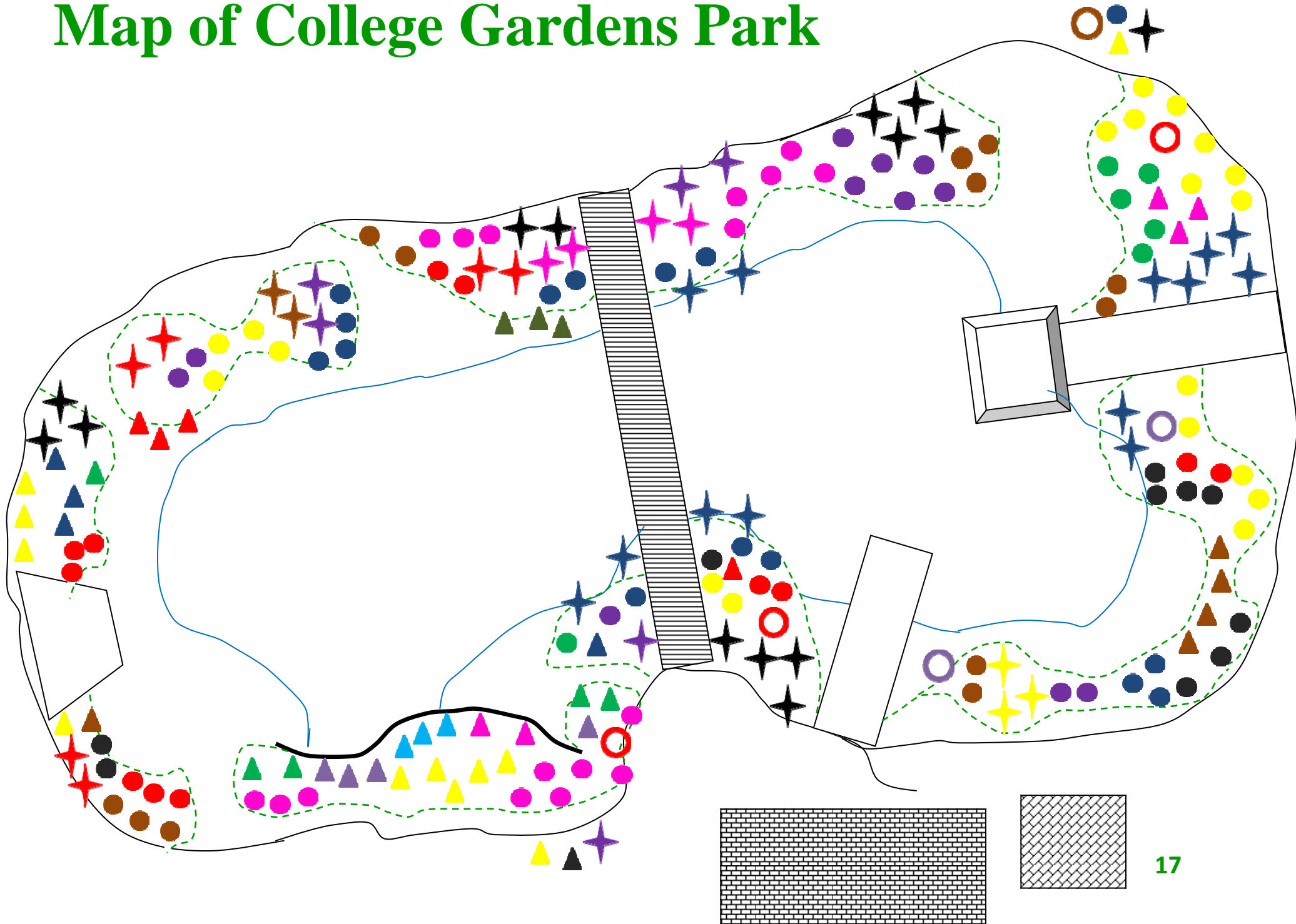
Height: 1-3 feet. Spread: 2 feet. A strong plant with dark green leaves with a wide purple flowers on top which attract a lot of butterflies. Needs full sun and tolerates poor or dry soil and heat.

Red Cardinal Flower
Lobelia cardinalis



Height: 4 feet. Spread: 1-1½ feet. The pretty red flowers above the leaves attract hummingbirds. It blooms in the weeks of late summer. They are usually short lived but also self-sow. Prospers in rich, moist soil and can take part shade.

Map of College Gardens Park








Map Key









Trees

- Canadian Serviceberry 
- Kentucky Coffee Tree 
- Sweet-bay Magnolia 

Shrubs

- Blue Sedge 
- Buttonbush 
- Red Chokeberry 
- Cardinal Red-twig Dog-wood 
- Shamrock Inkberry 
- St. John's Wort 
- Summersweet Clethra 
- Virginia Sweetspire 
- White Bell Heath 
- Winterberry 

Grasses

- Blue Switch Grass 
- Dwarf Fountain Grass 
- Feather Reed Grass 
- Mist Grass 
- Karley Rose Fountain Grass 
- Red Switch Grass 
- Ribbon Grass 
- Silver Variegated Sedge 

Perennials

- Black Eyed Susan 
- Blue Flag Iris 
- Goldenrod 
- Joe-Pye Weed 
- Moonbeam Coreopsis 
- Purple Cone Flower 
- Red Cardinal Flower 

Survey of Plants

Common Name	# Planted	# Survived
Canadian Serviceberry	5	4
Kentucky Coffeetree	7	5
Sweetbay Magnolia	4	4
Blue Sedge	75	72
Buttonbush	3	1
Red Chokeberry	4	4
Cardinal Red-twig Dogwood	18	10
Shamrock Inkberry	15	15
St. John's Wort	217	155
Summersweet Clethra	36	36
Virginia Sweetspire	33	23
White Bell Heath	22	22
Winterberry	27	27
Blue Switch Grass	90	86
Dwarf Fountain Grass	90	90
Feather Reed Grass	75	75
Mist Grass	32	30
Karley Rose Fountain Grass	72	45
Red Switch Grass	71	67
Ribbon Grass	102	98
Silver Variegated Sedge	110	108
Black Eyed Susan	234	208
Blue Flag Iris	65	61
Goldenrod	33	11
Joe-Pye Weed	32	32
Moonbeam Coreopsis	108	52
Purple Cone Flower	123	71
Red Cardinal Flower	81	33

19

Sources

Tenenbaum, Frances, Rita Buchanan, and Roger Holmes. *Taylor's Master Guide to Gardening*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1994. Print.

USDA PLANTS Database. United States Department of Agriculture : National Resources Conservation Service. Web. 27 July 2011. <<http://plants.usda.gov>>.

"Deer Resistant Plants." *Deer-Resistant Landscape Nursery*. Web. 27 July 2011. <<http://deerxlandscape.com>>.

Nitszche, Pete, Pedro Perdomo, and David Drake. "Landscape Plants Rated by Deer Resistance: Home, Lawn & Garden." *Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station*. New Jersey. Web. 27 July 2011. <<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/deerresistance>>.