

What's Blooming?

April 2009

As you exit, please recycle this guide at our front door for the next visitor.

***Clematis armandii* 'Appleblossom'**

To the right of the blossom-shaped doorway in the Courtyard of Tranquility, it's hard to miss the rapidly climbing vine with a profusion of fragrant white flowers—stunning! *C. armandii* 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)**

***Camellia* 'Taylor's Perfection'**

This hybrid camellia has large, semi-double, light pink blossoms and a tight central cluster of yellow stamens and grows relatively slowly to 10 to 12 feet in height and 8 feet in width, with a rounded, upright growth habit. Hybridized in New Zealand and introduced in 1975, this particular cultivar can be found in the banana stand just east of the Courtyard of Tranquility. **(MAP: B)**

***Magnolia X soulangiana* (saucer magnolia)**

A French hybrid with Chinese parents, *M. soulangiana* is a hybrid cross between *M. denudata* and *M. liliiflora*. Our saucer magnolia towers thirty feet above Zither Lake and rewards visitors with a profusion of purple and white, tulip-shaped flowers in early spring. Located east of the Hall of Brocade Clouds and best viewed from a distance on the terrace in front of the Teahouse. **(MAP: C)**

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

This evergreen shrub explodes with clusters of pink flowers in winter with a rich, orange blossom-like scent. The cultivar 'Aureomarginata' has glossy green leaves and creamy yellow margins. 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 slept next to *Daphne odora*. **(MAP: D)**

***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. Excellent examples can be found directly east of the Hall of Brocade Clouds and along the Garden's west wall. **(MAP: E)**

Rhododendron lutescens

Several myths surround the rhododendron in China. Its common name in Chinese is associated with the 'cuckoo'. An ancient poem links the bird's seasonal singing with the rhododendron's springtime bloom. This particular species is native to China's northeastern Yunnan, Hubei and Guizhou provinces. This species has primrose yellow flowers with green spots and attractive reddish bronze-tinged leaves, particularly prominent on new growth but also developing with the onset of cold weather. Flowers have long, gracefully curved stamens and lend a delicate appearance to the flowers. Reaching nearly 20 feet in the wild but usually seen under 10 feet in cultivation, *R. lutescens* is an attractively scraggly shrub and flowers February to April, depending on climate. **(MAP: F)**

***Camellia* 'Bukohan', syn. *Camellia* 'Tinsie'**

This *Camellia japonica* cultivar produces miniature, anemone-form flowers approximately 2" wide. Though simple, the flower presents a striking color contrast with a single outer ring of crimson-red petals wrapped around a dense cluster of tightly drawn, stark white petaloids in its center. Introduced in 1719, 'Bokuhan' originated in the Kanto district of Japan, a region renowned for its contributions to the development of the modern camellia. 'Bokuhan' is a Japanese personal name meaning "companion in simplicity." (MAP: G)

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

This stunning spring 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: H)

***Camellia* 'Grandiflora Rosea'**

The camellia has long been a favorite garden plant in China. The ornamental species of camellia that were used most frequently in traditional Chinese gardens were *C. japonica*, *C. reticulata* and, to a lesser extent, *C. sasanqua*. Overall, most camellia enthusiasts would agree that *C. japonicum* ranks first as an ambassador for the entire genus. It is the camellia seen in gardens across China, often to the exclusion of other species. This cultivar produces large, semi-double flower with deep pink, crinkled petals complemented by a profusion of attractive, golden yellow stamens in late winter to early spring. 'Grandiflora Rosea' was introduced in 1937 by the Teagardens Nursery in South Carolina. (MAP: I)

***Camellia reticulata* 'Dr. Clifford Parks'**

This sumptuous show stopper has large, peony-form, rose-red flowers with prominent gold stamens. *C. reticulata* has been cultivated since ancient times in southern China, where it is lauded for its longevity. Mature specimens claimed to be many hundreds of years old can be found in temple gardens near the cities of Kunming and Dali in southwest China. (MAP: J)

***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 *K. j.* '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. View a veritable cornucopia of blooms at the east end of the covered bridge. (MAP: K)

Osmanthus delavayi

This broadleaf evergreen shrub is native to Western China and has small, sweetly fragrant white flowers that appear in April. The Chinese word for osmanthus, *gui*, is pronounced similarly to the word for 'noble' so for the Chinese, the plant is loaded with cultural significance. Osmanthus is also an emblem of literary merit and studious pursuits. (MAP: L)

***Daphne odora* f. *alba* (winter daphne)**

This evergreen shrub explodes with clusters of white flowers in winter. Its rich, orange blossom-like scent perfumes the air throughout the garden. (MAP: M)

***Prunus mume*, *Prunus mume* 'Kobai' (flowering plum)**

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. Find two specimens of *P. mume* near the entrance to the Scholar's Study. *P. mume* 'Kobai' has a pale, pink semidouble flower. (MAP: N)

***Clematis fasciculiflora* (winter clematis)**

An obscure, wild-collected species native to southwestern China that was recorded as early as 1889. Trifoliate leaves have silvery center stripes when young. It's one of the few clematis that flower in the heart of winter. Diminutive white blooms are fragrant and occur in small bunches of pendulant, half-open bells. A rare treat! **(MAP: O)**

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

The common name for this perennial plant resonates with 'evergreenness'. *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: P)**

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. This camellia's small tree like forms lends itself to small spaces. **(MAP: Q)**

***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: R)**

Rhododendron veitchianum

This uncommon rhododendron is housed in a large brown pot to the right of the entry to the Scholar's Study. Its extremely fragrant flowers are reminiscent of easter lilies given their shape. Petals are frilled with a yellow-orange blotch near their base. **(MAP: S)**

Edgeworthia chrysantha* f. *rubra

Edgeworthia is a form of *E. chrysantha* with orange-red flowers. Its slightly smaller overall size more closely resembles wild forms of *Edgeworthia chrysantha*, unlike the vigorous selection 'Gold Rush' commonly seen in gardens. Pendant, silver-white, fuzzy buds appear on bare stems January, unfurling over many weeks in February and beyond to display umbels of tiny, lightly fragrant, tubular flowers. The rubbery, brown stems resemble those of *Daphne*, to which it is related. **(MAP: T)**

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

Collected in the wild by northwest plantsman, Roy Davidson, this plant's smoldering, deep red flowers are translucent when backlit by the setting sun. Cultivated in China for centuries, flowering quince has long been a favorite subject among Chinese painters. This plant also produces small, fragrant, pale-green fruits that are inedible but can be used to scent the interiors of rooms. Quince have long been grown in Chinese gardens and are also used for penjing, the Chinese art of growing plants in miniature landscapes. You'll find ours nestled under the sheltering branches of the large pine at the east end of the Zig Zag Bridge. **(MAP: U)**

***Corylopsis veitchiana* (winterhazel)**

Native to China, this plant is a wonderful late winter/early spring bloomer. It produces long racemes of bright yellow flowers that stand out against its bare branches. Semi-fragrant, this plant is visually stunning and easy to care for year-round. **(MAP: V)**

Rhododendron spinuliferum

This rhododendron's crayon red-orange flowers are little more than an inch in length and distinctly tube-shaped. As such, this species has earned the nickname 'Firecracker Flower' among the Chinese. Leaves are delicate and narrow, complimenting a shrub that is characteristically very open and spare. *R. spinuliferum* has an exceptionally long flowering season. This rhododendron resides quietly in dappled shade on the north side of Half a Window Clustered in Green. **(MAP: W)**

***Camellia japonica*, *Camellia japonica* 'Dr. Robert E. Schwartz'**

According to tradition, the camellia is an auspicious symbol during the Chinese New Year. Conversely, it was once considered unlucky if women wore it as a hair ornament since the lengthy time from bud to bloom implied a long wait for the birth of a son. *C. 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: X)**

***Camellia japonica* 'Nuccio's Pearl'**

The color of this lovely, formal double-flowered camellia is the palest blush pink towards the center with soft orchid pink outer petals. Both inner and outer petals are pointed, giving the blossoms a delicately layered appearance, almost like a tissue paper pinecone, when viewed from above. The shrub has a compact, upright habit and reaches about 8 feet in 10 years. Released in 1978 by the renowned Nuccio's Nursery of Altadena, California, the parentage of 'Nuccio's Pearl' remains a trade secret. Ours is located on the east wall of the Boat House. **(MAP: Y)**

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 and next to the yellow flowering *Kerria* at the east end of the Rainbow Bridge. **(MAP: Z)**

Epimedium pinnatum* subsp. *colichium

This evergreen groundcover forms sturdy colonies of attractive, glossy, heart-shaped, green leaves with reddish-brown new growth. Spring flowers are large, bright, sulfur-yellow and appear at the end of thin wiry stems. While this species is not native to China, many are and the leaves of this plant have been used medicinal in China since 400 A.D. **(MAP: 2)**

Primula kisoana* f. *alba

A far cry from the common, garden-variety primula found in supermarkets, this species has unusually pretty, downy, rounded leaves that are coarsely toothed and grow to 6 inches in diameter. Stems bear flower heads with up to 8 snow white, 5-petaled flowers with tiny greenish eyes. *P. kisoana* f. *alba* grows along the Garden's west wall across the path from the Painted Boat in Misty Rain. **(MAP: 3)**

***Camellia* 'Kujaku-tsubaki'**

With unusual, semi-double, trumpet-shaped flowers hanging from branch tips like shuttle-cocks, this unique Japanese cultivar blooms in mid- to late-spring. The striking flowers are tomato-red splashed white. Leaves are narrow, lanceolate, glossy and very dark green with occasional yellow virus markings. The shrub's habit is weeping with long, willowy branches. This plant can be traced definitively back to 1966, but is probably much older. **(MAP: 4)**

***Camellia* 'Quintessence'**

What a beauty with its single, blush-pink flowers and gentle scent! This low, slow-growing shrub is beginning to sprawl 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: 5)**

***Pulmonaria saccharata* 'Mrs. Moon'**

This evergreen perennial is a respectable old cultivar of a species originating in central and southern Europe. It has somewhat hairy green leaves sprinkled with silvery white spots and develops pink buds as early as March that mature to small, funnel-shaped, bluish purple flowers produced in abundance. Flowering continues throughout April and May, when old leaves are replaced by fresh, new foliage. **(MAP: 6)**

***Magnolia denudata* (Yulan Magnolia)**

Creamy white blooms are borne singly at the tips of bare branches, signaling winter's final call. While China is the country with the greatest number of magnolia species, only two are commonly grown as garden plants. *M. denudata* is one of them and has been cultivated for well over a thousand years. In ancient times, only the emperor was entitled to grow the magnolia and would occasionally reward worthy subjects with a root. **(MAP: 7)**

***Rhododendron calophytum* Phetteplace Form**

This plant is native to the central western and eastern Sichuan and northeast Yunnan provinces of China. One of the cold-hardest of the large-growing species, this magnificent *Rhododendron* produces clusters of 5 to 30 loosely-arranged flowers in shades of white to pink, pale mauve pink, and sometimes purple with deep red blotches and spots. The Phetteplace Form represents a version of this more common coloration but with a trace of pink in the corolla and distinct red buds and red petioles. **(MAP: 8)**

***Camellia* 'Kramer's Supreme'**

Records show that the Chinese were cultivating camellias at least as early as the 11th century. Today, there are an estimated 30,000 cultivars worldwide! Introduced by the Kramer Brothers Nursery of California in 1957, this deep red camellia is touted for both its size and fabulously full peony-form flowers. **(MAP: 9)**

***Camellia* 'Jury's Yellow'**

Introduced by New Zealand breeders in 1976, 'Jury's Yellow' has very full, medium-sized, anemone-form flowers consisting of pale, primrose yellow, ruffled petaloids surrounded by creamy white petals, notched at the tips. Flowering occurs over a long period through February and March. Located along the Garden's west wall near the Painted Boat in Misty Rain. **(MAP: 10)**

***Magnolia* 'Galaxy'**

China is home to the world's greatest number of magnolia species. Outside the Garden's walls and lining Everett Street are *Magnolia* 'Galaxy' trees. These lovely beauties have reddish purple, profuse, lightly fragrant flowers that appear two to three weeks after early spring-blooming magnolias. This particular cultivar resulted from a 1963 cross between *M. liliiflora* 'Nigra' and *M. sprengeri* 'Diva' at the U.S. National Arboretum. It was selected as a 2004 Great Plant Pick, a Pacific Northwest awards program administered by the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden in Washington State. Look for these trees along Everett Street. **(MAP: 11)**

***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: 12)**

PLANT MAP

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