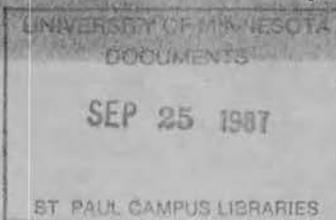


Arboretum Review



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Woodland wildflowers

We are very fortunate in having approximately half of the arboretum in natural woods that abound in wildflowers. To this native flora, we have added plants from other parts of North America and from other countries. It is not possible to list and describe all of the plants growing in the arboretum. The following plants (all are native to the state, unless indicated otherwise) are the most common and showy.

Actaea pachypoda (white baneberry). The species name means "thick-footed." This refers to the stout pedicel on which the white berries are attached. Each berry has a black spot at the tip that suggests another common name, "doll's-eyes." These two characteristics distinguish this species from the next. The white baneberry thrives in deep shade. The clusters of small white flowers open in May, while the fruits mature in August. Most of these plants produce white fruits. Those that produce red fruits can be distinguished by the thick pedicels and the black spot.

Actaea rubra (red baneberry). This plant is similar to the white baneberry, except the fruits are borne on slender pedicels and ripen about 3 weeks earlier. It grows in more open woods and is much more common. White-fruited forms of the red baneberry are not uncommon.

Anemone quinquefolia (wood anemone). This low-growing ground cover spreads by slender rhizomes. As the species name suggests, the leaves are compound with 5 leaflets. Showy white flowers cover the plants in May.

Anemone thalictroides (rue anemone). This attractive little wildflower resembles the wood anemone except each leaf has 3 leaflets and the plant multiplies by small underground tubers. Several white to rose pink flowers are borne on a stem. Fully double-flowered forms have been selected in both white and rose colors. These are growing in the arboretum and remain attractive for about 6 weeks each spring, starting in mid-May.

Aquilegia canadensis (wild columbine). This is one of our most graceful wildflowers with the red and yellow bells hanging downward and the five spurs pointing up. The foliage resembles that of the rue anemone, except the leaflets are larger. The plants grow at the edge of woods and are about 18 inches tall. May is the month to enjoy this wildflower. Another columbine with deep blue flowers, Aquilegia discolor, has been planted and is becoming naturalized - it is a beauty.

Arisaema triphyllum (jack-in-the-pulpit). This common wildflower needs no description. The spike-like flowers enclosed in the characteristic sheath with a hood gives rise to the common name. The bright red cluster of fruits in early fall are even more striking than the bloom. Jack-in-the-pulpits are common throughout the wooded areas in the arboretum, especially on north-facing slopes and in moist ravines.

Asarum canadense (Canada wild ginger). This is another excellent shade-loving ground cover with dark green, heart-shaped leaves. The reddish-brown bell-shaped flowers are interesting, but since they are covered by the foliage, few people see them.

Caulophyllum thalictroides (blue cohosh). This is another woodland plant with compound leaves that resemble the rue anemone. The small yellow flowers with purple sepals are not especially showy but the bright blue berries that ripen in August make the plant worth including in any woodland garden.

Cimicifuga racemosa (black snakeroot). This tall plant with its spires of small white flowers is strikingly beautiful in July and August. It prefers a moist, rich soil in partial shade. This plant, native in the eastern United States, is one of the few woodland plants that blooms in midsummer.

Claytonia virginica (spring beauty). This harbinger of spring grows from fleshy underground tubers. The dainty, pink-striped flowers open in

early May. Although this plant normally grows in shaded woods, it will do well in the flower border.

Cypripedium calceolus (yellow lady's slipper). This is our most common orchid in the arboretum. The first blooms open in mid-May and continue for about 3 weeks. Flower size varies greatly and some botanists distinguish between the very small and very large flowered types. There also seems to be considerable difference between individual plants in the time they bloom. Plant in partial shade in a soil rich in organic matter.

Cypripedium candidum (white lady's slipper). This is the only lady's slipper that will tolerate a soil high in lime. The small white slippers are produced in abundance. In nature, this species grows in grassy areas - this suggests that it may not be too shade tolerant.



Sanguinaria canadensis (double)

Cypripedium reginae (showy lady's slipper). This showy lady's slipper is our state flower. It prefers a moist soil and light shade. Our best specimens are growing at the edge of our sphagnum bog.

Dentaria laciniata (cutleaf toothwort). This white-flowered member of the mustard family can be quite showy when growing in masses. The toothed leaves are characteristic of this plant.

Dicentra cucullaria (Dutchman's-breeches). This is one of the first of our wildflowers to bloom in the spring. The fern-like foliage and the white flowers with the characteristic form that suggests the common name are very showy. The foliage dies down in early summer. The plant is common along the wooded trails.

Dicentra eximia (wild bleeding-heart). This is not native in the arboretum but plants have been started and it is hoped that they will naturalize. This Dicentra differs from others in that the foliage stays attractive all summer and flowers continue to form until the tops are killed by frost. The heart-shaped flowers are red. This plant, native in the eastern United States, does well in flower borders that are partially shaded.

Dodecatheon media (shooting star). This is an exciting wildflower with pointed flowers shaped like the head of a dart. Several flowers ranging from white to pink are borne on an erect stalk that rises from a rosette of leaves. Propagation is from seed or division.

Erythronium albidum (white trout lily). This is the most satisfactory of the trout lilies with its pure white flowers opening in early May. This plant is readily propagated by fleshy corms or seed. It takes several years for seedlings to reach flowering size. The yellow trout lily or adder's tongue (E. americanum) is not as free flowering, but its mottled leaves are more attractive. We also are fortunate in having plants of the

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rather rare Minnesota troutlily (*E. propullans*) established along the stream. This species is much smaller than the others.

Eupatorium rugosum (white snakeroot). This is another late summer or fall bloomer. The clusters of small white flowers are quite showy and the plants are common throughout the wooded areas.

Geranium maculatum (wild geranium). This showy member of the geranium family grows about a foot high and is covered with purplish pink flowers in late May and early June. This is not to be confused with the tender garden geraniums that actually belong to the genus *Pelargonium*.

Hepatica acutiloba (sharp-lobe hepatica). This is the common hepatica in the arboretum. It blooms soon after the snow melts and before the new leaves open. Flowers vary in color from white to pink to blue. *H. americana*, the round-lobe hepatica, prefers an acid soil and has not done too well in the arboretum.

Maianthemum canadensis (false lily-of-the-valley). This is very common in deep, moist shade. The leaves and flowers resemble small lilies-of-the-valley.

Mertensia virginica (Virginia bluebells). This is another wildflower that dies to the ground after it flowers and matures its seed. When in bloom, the plants are striking with the blue, bell-shaped flowers. The plants thrive in partial shade and reproduce by seeds and fleshy corms.

Orchis spectabilis (showy orchis). This is one of the few orchids native in the arboretum. We now have a sizeable planting. The flowers appear in early June and barely project above the foliage. This is a striking plant when in bloom.

Phlox divaricata (woods phlox). This blue-flowered phlox is common in open woods in southeastern Minnesota. It reproduces from seed and will naturalize itself when conditions are right. We have started several colonies in the arboretum and are in hopes that these will spread. It usually blooms in early June.

Podophyllum peltatum (mayapple). This vigorous wildflower is grown as much for its large umbrella-like leaves as for its flowers. The large white flowers are actually quite showy but are hidden by the leaves. Fleshy, apple-like fruits develop from the flowers.

Polemonium reptans (Jacob's ladder). This is an attractive low spreading plant with small blue flowers in late May. It reseeds itself and makes an attractive ground cover. It grows well in partial shade.

Polygonatum biflorum (Solomon's seal). Plants of this species can vary from 6 inches to 6 feet tall. Some botanists give a different species name to the taller plants. The Solomon's seal has arching stems with bell-shaped flowers produced in the axils of the leaves. These are followed by steel-blue fruits.

Sanguinaria canadensis (bloodroot). This is the most common wildflower in the arboretum. The large, showy white blossoms appear in late April and literally cover the hillsides in the woods. A double-flowered form has been planted and these attract a lot of attention. The name "bloodroot" comes from the colored sap in the fleshy rhizomes.

Trillium cernuum (nodding trillium). This is the only native trillium in the arboretum. A whorl of 3 leaves and a nodding white flower that falls below the level of the leaves characterize this species. The snow trillium, *T. nivale*, is the first to bloom. The flowers, resembling miniature showy trilliums, are borne on short stems about 6 inches tall. The showy trillium, *T. grandiflorum*, has been planted in quantity and now is well established. Other trilliums include the eastern yellow trillium (*T. luteum*), toad trillium, *T. sessile*, and purple trillium, *T. erectum*.

Uvularia grandiflora (large-flowered bellwort). This yellow-flowered bellwort is quite common. The twisted stems and the deep yellow bell-shaped flowers are conspicuous in May. "Merrybells" is another common name for this plant.

Viola papilionacea (hooked blue violet). This is the common blue violet in the arboretum. The foliage makes an attractive ground cover, and when in bloom it is a choice addition to the wildflower garden. The downy yellow violet, *V. pubescens*, is common in the woods. The European sweet violet, *V. odorata*, has been planted along with a number of hybrids that produce flowers of various colors and markings. These hybrids are difficult to maintain due to volunteer seedlings that differ slightly from their parents. May is the month to enjoy the violets.

The above and many more wildflowers, most of which bloom from late April to early June, can be seen in the arboretum. You are invited to visit the arboretum and become better acquainted with the great wealth of plant materials that are either native or planted.

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