

## September in the Garden

July and August 2004 were hot and dry causing some of the deciduous trees to turn colour early and drop leaves. Some of the annuals finished early, despite a few good rains in August. The Garden entrance display of annuals, tender perennials and hanging baskets fared rather better thanks to regular watering. The plant that always attracts most attention is the 6 foot tall *Brugmansia aurea* (back cover) with its large yellow bell like flowers. If you are here late in the day closer to dusk you will smell their lovely fragrance. Two small trees are *Plumbago capensis*, with pale blue flowers near the outside gate, and the purple flowering *Tibouchina urvilleana* (Figure 14) on your right as you start up to the board walk. There are two beds of the tender perennial *Salvia patens* 'Blue Angel', which will continue to flower into the autumn along with the *Brugmansia* and *Tibouchina*.

If you walk along the bottom of Asian Way just past the bridge at the start of the Forrest trail there is a lovely clump of the orange ginger lily, *Hedychium densiflorum* 'Assam Orange' (Figure 15). There are also several plantings of the yellow flowered wax bells *Kirengeshoma palmata* in the meadow off lower Asian Way and along top Asian Way, on both sides of the path just after you enter the David Lam Asian Garden. If you touch the flowers they feel sponge like. The late summer flowering *Anemone hupehensis* with white flowers is planted near the kirengeshoma. They started flowering earlier than usual in 2004 due to the heat and lack of rain but the plants in the shade are still blooming.

After you pass through the tunnel, you will see that the perennial beds on the banks still have colour. The airy *Gaura lindheimeri* with its white butterfly like flowers flowers all summer and into the late autumn. The red *Phygelius coccineus* and the yellow *Phygelius* × *rectus* 'Moonraker' are a blaze of colour and are also planted in the E.H. Lohbrunner Alpine Garden and the Mary Ewanchuck Garden.

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The Alpine Garden has less colour at this time of year but there are always interesting plants to see. I like to sit on the top bench, a peaceful spot with a view of the whole garden, from which you may see in the distance a bald eagle on a favoured perch in the Asian Garden. In the Asian section is the low growing *Ceratostigma plumbaginoides* with its dark blue flowers. Look for the tiny flowers of the white fall flowering *Cyclamenhederifolium* in the European section under the *Corylus avellana* 'Contorta'.

The Food garden in September always looks slightly untidy compared to the neat rows of seedlings in the spring, but it is a sign of all the good food it has produced. The melons are overflowing the beds, the crinkly cabbages are a work of art and the tomatoes under their protective plastic are a treat to see. The kiwi vines are loaded with fruit but they will not be ripe until early winter. We harvest them before the final hard frost and they still need time to ripen. The apples and pears are starting to ripen in time for our Apple Festival in October.

When you leave the Food Garden go up the path to the top corner by the arbour and look for the orange/red flowers of the climbing *Campsis × tagliabuana*.

On your way out along side the boardwalk there is a cheerful planting of ornamental bronze and yellow sunflowers.

The Nitobe Memorial Garden, at the north end of the university campus, is another place to spend a restful moment. When you walk through the gate you are in another world surrounded by the autumn colours.

### Erratum

Turkington, R. 2004. *Some Causes and Consequences of the Loss of Biodiversity: Ten Years of Plant Ecological Research in the Yukon*. *Davidsonia* 15(2): 47-69. The graphical illustrations (Figures 1, 2 and 3) on pages 55-56 show incorrect symbols. The corrected graphs appear on pages 131-132.



Photo: Judy Newton

Figure 14. *Tibouchina urvilleana*. The autumn foliage is a deep reddish-bronze.



Photo: Judy Newton

Figure 15. *Hedychium densiflorum* 'Assam Orange' in the David C. Lam Asian Garden.