

August in the Garden

August is our hot, dry sunny month with lovely blue skies. Of course, rain between midnight and 5 AM would be welcome. This is the perfect month to enjoy the perennials and all the colours that tend to be brighter and less subtle than in the spring.

At the entrance next to the Shop in the Garden *Koelreuteria paniculata* (golden rain tree) is in full flower. The yellow flowers with bright red at the base of the petals look stunning with the newly forming deep maroon pods.

As you enter the David C. Lam Asian Garden, look on your left for the pink-orange new growth of *Quercus myrsinifolia* (an evergreen oak). You can't miss the lilies, which are in full flower showing colours from white through yellow and orange. Look for *Lilium* [Citronella Group] with reflex petals that expose the chocolate brown stamens. Beside the *Carpinus fangiana* is *Lilium sargentiae* with tall stems clothed from top to bottom in fine leaves. The white buds are smudged with pale maroon but the inside of the flowers are white with yellow at the base of the throat.

Along the main path to your right *Hosta ventricosa* has deep purple flowers with narrow shiny dark green leaves. It is backed by the tall perennial, *Kirengeshoma palmata* [Koreana Group], a handsome late flowering plant with fleshy yellow flowers. There is a hybrid between this and *K. palmata* down in the meadow.

If you continue past the tunnel and follow the path you will see a climbing *Hydrangea petiolaris anomala* that climbs up two trees like a big V. Now to your left, behind the *Weigela middendorffiana*, you will see *Pileostegia viburnoides*, an evergreen vine climbing up a tall stump. Notice its leathery dark green leaves and dense panicles of small creamy white star shaped flowers. As you walk along the lower main path, look for *Alangium platanifolium* var. *macrophyllum* growing on your left just before the stream. It is a small tree with narrow, yellow flowers with petals that roll up exposing the bright yellow stamens. You must return in October to see the incredible dark porcelain blue fruit.

The early apples are ripe in the Food Garden, which is in full production and keeps the Friends of the Garden busy harvesting the food which is donated to the Salvation Army. Although the kiwi, *Actinidia deliciosa*, may look almost ready to eat they will not be ready for harvest until October or even later. The smaller fruit of *Actinidia arguta* will ripen on the vine in October. Check out our Children “Kid Stop” signs. Most are in the food garden but there is one by the hollow cedar in the Asian Garden and one by the tunnel.

Take some time to sit in the tranquil setting of the Physic Garden and soak up the scents and watch the bees working the beds.

There are always little treasures to see in the E. H. Lohbrunner Alpine Garden. The African section is beautiful in the late summer with *Schizostylis coccinea* that will go on flowering into late winter. *Eucomis bicolor*, the pineapple lily, has an inflorescence of beautiful green flowers edged in purple topped with a tuft of green bracts. In the Asian section you can't miss the orange *Euphorbia griffithii*. It is 90cm tall with flowers held in 13cm terminal cymes with yellow cyathia cupped inside orange-red involucre. Along the top fence in the Asian section is *Lepchinia salviae*, with dusky dark pink flowers. Along the fence, many interesting vines flower during August.

Along your walk please stop and read some of our interpretive signs. We always appreciate feedback about the content, size, legibility or anything else, so feel free to tell the gatekeeper on your way out.