

WHAT'S IN BLOOM

Zinnia Cheetham, MCPC Plant Records Curator Specialist

WELCOME BACK to the Willowood Arboretum! Beginning Monday, August 3, Willowood is open **Monday through Friday, 10 am to 3 pm. CLOSED WEEKENDS.**

Buildings are closed but most gardens and walking trails are open. A porta john is available.

This quote by Minnie Aumonier seems apt for this moment in time-

“When the world wearies and society fails to satisfy, there is always the garden”. **Welcome back to the garden.**

The summer bloom has just begun in the meadows. The waves of pastel purple wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*) are attracting lots of pollinators. Recently, the joe-pye weed (*Eutrochium*) and early goldenrod (*Solidago*) have also begun to bloom. Visitors will likewise see ironweed (*Vernonia*) starting to bloom along the drive among the meadows in the upcoming weeks as well.

The barns are similarly surrounded by pastel flowers this year. An assortment of white, purple, and pink *Angelonia* were planted by the Stone Barn for the season. These “summer snapdragons” are known for their fragrance and flower all summer!

Lilies are currently blooming across the site and reaching peak bloom. Several that are in full bloom are the bright pink *Lilium* ‘Elodie’ is in bloom along the back of the propagation greenhouse, the yellow *Hemerocallis* ‘Hyperion’ blooming along the propagation greenhouse steps, and the many orange lilies blooming, such as *Lilium lancifolium* var. *splendens* in the cottage garden.

Visitors should keep in mind that the coronavirus has had a significant impact on activities at the Willowood Arboretum. This has led to the closure of the Rosarie for the season and impacted maintenance activities across the site. In addition, construction is currently underway to replace the cedar shingle roof on the Propagation Greenhouse.

Thank you for your patience and support during this time.