

Plant Care and Bloom Time Guide

Brownstone Lane Garden

July 2009

General notes:

This garden was designed to thrive with relatively low maintenance, but like any perennial garden, it will look its best if it receives regular attention and care. The following images and notes refer to plants installed in summer 2009. They are presented roughly in order of when they bloom (in the case of flowering plants) or when their presence is most noticeable.

Watering

A cottage garden contains a wide variety of plants that will adapt to the conditions of the site. Due to the sloping bank and dense tree cover in some places, as well as to the desire for diversity, some areas will need more water than others. In general, the whole garden should be watched carefully in its first season, and watered at least every other day when there is no rain. Watering is best done in the early morning or evening when the sun is not blazing. It is hoped that after the first year, only a few plants will need extra watering for survival. (The woodland area near the bench, and the area under the beech trees will need the most consistent watering). However almost all the plants will flourish better if they have deep watering every few days, so that the soil remains deeply moist, but not wet. (The

more drought tolerant plants include Lamb's Ears, Spanish Peaks Foxglove, Gaura, and Yarrow.)

Deer-proofing

In addition to length and timing of bloom, a primary consideration in plant selection was deer-resistance. Deer will eat anything when hungry, but the hope is that most of these plants are not their favorites. As of July 2009, it seems that the deer are already sampling just about everything, so it will be important to spray with deer repellent as instructed on the product label. The most vulnerable plants so far seem to be the Cranesbill Geraniums by the bench, and the Anemones. I was surprised that the Zinnias have fared so well; this may be because the Mexican Heather is so unappetizing it is offering protection.

Fertilizing

The garden has been well amended with compost and sand. Yearly applications of mulch will gradually break down and contribute nutrients, so fast-acting chemical fertilizers should not be necessary. However, most annuals, bulbs, and some perennials are heavy feeders, so a sprinkling of Plant-tone or Bulb-tone (available at Southern States) can be applied in the spring before new mulch goes down.



Deadheading

Most flowering plants will be more likely to produce further blooms if old ones are removed. Cut back to the next set of buds (Lantana), or to the ground (some Yarrow stems), or simply shear (Catmint), as indicated below.

Propagation

A cottage garden will change over time according to what survives and proliferates. Some plants will need to be thinned if they produce more seedlings than desired, some will need to be divided, and some such as most Foxgloves (which are biennial), will need to be allowed to go to seed if they are to persist. Others will turn out not to be suited for the site, and will be difficult or impossible to maintain. The holes they leave will provide space for transplants of those that thrive, or for new species as desired.

Enjoy your garden and keep me posted on its progress!

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B2

Galanthus nivalis 'Elwesii'
Elwesii Snowdrop

Sprinkle with Bulb-tone fertilizer after blooming. Allow foliage to remain until yellowed and dry.

Bloom: Late January, February.



P14

Helleborus x hybridus 'Pine Knot Strain'
Lenten Rose

Sprinkle with Bulb-tone or Plant-tone fertilizer after blooming. Mulch in autumn. If seedlings appear, these can be transplanted.

Bloom: Late January, February, March, early April.



B1

Chionodoxa forbsia
Glory-of-the-Snow

Sprinkle with Bulb-tone fertilizer after blooming. Allow foliage to remain until yellowed and dry.

Bloom: February, March.

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P27

Asarum canadensis
Wild Ginger

Foliage emerges in Spring. Flowers are inconspicuous reddish brown. Keep moist for best growth. Transplanted from neighboring woods.

Groundcover, could be good candidate for under beech trees.



P34

Anemonella thalictroides
Rue Anemone

Native, woodland plant. Does well under trees but needs consistent moisture. Well developed clumps can be divided, may self-sow, may go dormant in summer. Not deer resistant. Compost.



P36

Chrysogonum virginianum var. 'Australe'
Green and Gold

Native, deer resistant. Need consistent moisture if planted in full sun. Fertilize with compost.

Bloom: March, April, May, may return in fall.

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B3b

Narcissus 'Avalon'
Avalon Daffodil



B3c

Narcissus 'Beersheba'
Beersheba Daffodil



B3

Narcissus 'Ice Follies'
Ice Follies Daffodil

All Daffodils: Sprinkle with Bulb-tone fertilizer after blooming. Allow foliage to remain until yellowed and dry.
Resistant to deer, rodents, and most other pests.

Bloom: mid-late season, probably April.

Bloom: early-mid season, probably March.

Bloom: early-mid season, probably March.

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B3a

Narcissus 'Delnashaugh'
Delnashaugh Daffodil

Bloom: late season, probably April-May.



P6

Callirhoe involucrata
Poppy Mallow, Winecup

Can be cut back if too leggy. Will probably self-sow and spread moderately. Needs excellent drainage, prefers cool summers.

Bloom: March through summer.



P26, P26a

Polygonatum biflorum, *P. odoratum* 'Variegatum'
Solomon's Seal (some variegated)

Native, not deer resistant. Can tolerate dry shade under trees. Divide in spring or fall. Spreads more easily if kept moist.

Bloom: April, early May.

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P25

Aquilegia canadensis
Columbine

Native, deer resistant. Can be short-lived, especially with poor drainage, but self-sows easily. Hummingbirds, butterflies.

Bloom: late April, May.



P31b

Phlox stolonifera 'Blue Ridge'
Woodland Phlox

Deer resistant, evergreen, spreads by stolons.

Bloom: late April, May.



P31a

Phlox divaricata 'London Grove'
Creeping Phlox

Deer resistant, evergreen, native, good ground cover, spreads slowly. Tolerates dry shade.

Bloom: late April, May.

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P4b

Baptisia 'Carolina Moonlight'
Yellow Hybrid Wild Indigo

Deer resistant, butterflies, interesting seedheads. Compost.

Bloom: late May, June.



P23b, P23a

Stachys byzantia 'Silver Carpet' and Helen von Stein Zeppelin'
Lamb's Ears

Needs little water, no fertilizer. Rarely blooms. If it blooms, cut off flowers (they are not very attractive). Groundcover, may be divided as clumps grow larger.



P4a

Baptisia 'Twilight Prarieblues'
Purple Hybrid Wild Indigo

Deer resistant, butterflies, interesting seedheads. Seem to be more robust than 'Carolina Moonlight'. Compost.

Bloom: late May, June.

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P8

Digitalis 'Candy Mountain'
Pink Foxglove

Deer resistant, hummingbirds, tends to be biennial so allow to set seed.

Bloom: late May, June.



P8b

Digitalis grandiflora
Yellow Foxglove

Deer resistant, hummingbirds, tends to be biennial so allow to set seed.

Bloom: late May, June.



P4b

Digitalis thapsii 'Spanish Peaks'
Pink Foxglove

Deer resistant, butterflies, drought resistant, thinner, fuzzy foliage. Cut spent flowers for further bloom, allow to set seed.

Bloom: late May, June, possibly again in fall.

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P8

Digitalis 'Camelot Rose'

Pink Foxglove

Deer resistant, hummingbirds, tends to be biennial so allow to set seed.

Bloom: late May, June, July.

P11a



P1a

Achillea 'Moonshine'

Monnshine Yellow Yarrow

Deer resistant, may flop when nights are hot, may self-sow. Cut spent blooms but leave a few for seeds.

Bloom: late May, June, July, August, September.



P11a

Euphorbia Polychroma 'First Blush'

Cushion Spurge

Deer resistant, tolerates hot dry conditions, Interesting foliage and fall interest.

Bloom: late May, June, July, August.

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B4a

Allium caeruleum or *azureum*

Blue Ornamental Onion

Deer resistant, needs sun and good drainage.
Long-blooming, interesting seedheads can remain.

Bloom: late May, June.



B4

Allium 'Globemaster'

Ornamental Onion

Deer resistant, needs sun and good drainage.
Long-blooming, interesting seedheads can remain.

Bloom: late May, June.



B4c

Allium 'Globemaster'

Ornamental Onion

Deer resistant, needs sun and good drainage.
Long-blooming, interesting seedheads can remain. Very small, grown for foliage.

Bloom: late May, June.

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A2a

Papaver orientalis or somniferum

Poppy

Deer resistant, needs sun and good drainage. Doesn't like humidity. Cut to ground after bloom, foliage may return for winter. Self-sows. Perennial but may not be hardy. (Not yet planted).

Bloom: April, May, June.



P24

Nepeta x faassenii 'Walker's Low'

Walker's Low Catmint

Deer resistant, attractive to butterflies, birds. Shear to 12-15" for repeat blooms. Shear if floppy. Cats like scent but do not eat it. Seems to bloom better with more sun.

Bloom: June through summer.



P35

Gaura lindheimeri 'Crimson Butterflies'

Pink Gaura

Deer resistant, attractive to butterflies, birds. Prefers sun but will tolerate some shade. Cut spent blooms.

Bloom: June through September. May take a break during hottest period.

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F1

Polystichum Acrostichoides

Christmas Fern

Evergreen, can tolerate dry shade under trees, native.



Dryopteris marginalis

Marginal Fern

Evergreen, can tolerate dry shade under trees, native. Transplanted from woods.



F3

Adiantum pedatum

Northern Maidenhair Fern

Deciduous, needs moisture but can survive under beech trees, native. Transplanted from woods.

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P33

Geranium 'Rozanne'

Cranesbill, Hardy Geranium

Butterflies. NOT deer resistant, cut spent blooms, water during dry spells.



A7a

Nicotiana 'Lime Green'

Tobacco Plant

Annual, may reseed. Available in many colors. Lime green blooming well but subtle. 2009 plants were mail-ordered from Select Seeds.



A1a

Lantana 'Bandana Rose'

Bandana Rose Lantana

Annual, deer resistant. Available in other colors. 2009 plants ordered from Select Seeds, were in full bloom, but have not re-bloomed well as of July.

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P20

Solidago canadensis 'Baby Gold'
Baby Gold Goldenrod

Not allergenic. Deer resistant. Do not fertilize. Should bloom until frost. Planted close to Anemones to provide shade; may need to be moved.

Bloom: All summer.



A8a

Torenia fourreii 'Catalina Pink'
Catalina Pink Torenia

Annual, shade lover, but doesn't seem to be blooming well under beeches. Moderate water needs. 2009 plants bought from Ivy Nursery, early July (possibly later than optimal).

Bloom: All summer.



A6b, A6a

Dianthus 'Wee Willy Mix' and 'Floral Lace Purple'

Annual, tolerates some shade, deer resistant. Cut back spent blooms. 2009 plants bought from Ivy Nursery, early July. Floral Lace Purple matches Winecups well.

Bloom: All summer.

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A3

Cuphea hyssopifolia
Mexican Heather

Deer resistant. May self-sow. Tolerates sun or shade, tough pretty plant. 2009 plants bought at Ivy Corner.

Bloom: All summer.



A4

Zinnia elegans (various)
Zinnia

Easy from seed, but start early. In July 2009, best blooms in garden. Most bought as plants from Ivy Corner, some grown from seed by Zoé. Select Seeds has individual colors.

Bloom: All summer.



A5

Salvia 'Black and Blue'
Black and Blue Salvia

Perennial, but probably not hardy here. Will probably self-sow; considered invasive in warmer climates so keep an eye on it. 2009 plants from Ivy Corner. Loved by hummers.

Bloom: All summer.

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B4d

Allium thunbergii 'Ozawa'
Fall Ornamental Onion

Deer resistant. Can take more shade than most Alliums. Seedheads may be left uncut if desired for winter interest.

Bloom: Late summer, fall.



P7

Chrysanthemum (Ajania) pacificum
Silver and Gold

Deer resistant. Foliage plant, ground cover plant, vigorous. Can be divided. Does not like too much water.

Bloom: October, November, December.



P32

Actaea simplex 'Brunette'
White Baneberry

Deer resistant. Keep well-watered. Butterflies, berries for birds.

Bloom: Late summer, fall.

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P3

Anemone 'Queen Charlotte'
Queen Charlotte Japanese Windflower

Not deer resistant. Needs protection from winter winds, afternoon sun. Water during dry spells.

Bloom: Late summer, fall.



S2

Leucothoe fontanesiana 'Scarletta'
Scarletta Doghobble

Deer resistant, cultivar of Virginia native. Blooms in spring but main attraction is foliage: reddish new growth, bronzy in fall and winter, evergreen.

Bloom: Mid spring.

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Echinacea 'Twilight'
Twilight Coneflower

Deer resistant. Drought resistant once established; blooms all summer until frost; deadheading prolongs bloom.

Bloom: Summer, fall.



Symphotrichon Cultivars

S. 'Alma Potschke' is pink, S. 'Bluebird' is pale blue; both are 3' tall and bloom in late fall. S. 'Professor Kippenburg' is lavender blue, 12" tall, blooms in fall. Deadhead to prolong blooms.

Bloom: Late fall.



Salvia guaranitica 'Black and Blue'

Marginally hardy: about half of last years plants came back. Cut stems in fall to increase hardiness, deadhead during blooming season. Adored by hummingbirds.

Bloom: Summer.