Botanical Bites

Look for these plants as you explore the Garden.

Sunflower
Helianthus annuus

Wells Fargo Rose Garden

These cheerful annuals grow to impressive heights each summer. The common name refers to their sunny appearance as well as the way young sunflowers move to follow the path of the sun throughout the day. Sunflower seeds have long been an important seasonal food source for both people and wildlife.

Hardy Water Lily
Nymphaea spp.

Water Garden

Many of the lilies in the Water Garden are hardy and therefore remain in the Water Garden year-round. The leaves, seeds, and rhizomes of native water lilies have several uses in traditional medicine, and the rhizomes may be prepared and eaten somewhat like potatoes.

False Indigo
Baptisia x *variicolor* 'Twilite'

Lauridsen Savanna

This shrub features showy violet and yellow flowers in the spring, followed by black seed pods in the summer. The genus name "*Baptisia*" comes from the Greek word *bapto* which means "to dye." Native Americans and European settlers used the native *B. australis* to create a blue dye that is similar to true indigo, though not as vivid.

Swiss Chard
Beta vulgaris 'Bright Lights'

Koehn Garden Espalier Wall

Domesticated in the Mediterranean over 2,000 years ago, Swiss chard bears leaves that are both ornamental and delicious. Chard contains many essential vitamins and minerals, and is a healthy addition to salads, wraps, and stir-fries. It is also high in betalain pigments, which create brightly colored veins and petioles.

Sea Lavender
Limonium platyphyllum

Dorothy and Max Rutledge Conifer Garden

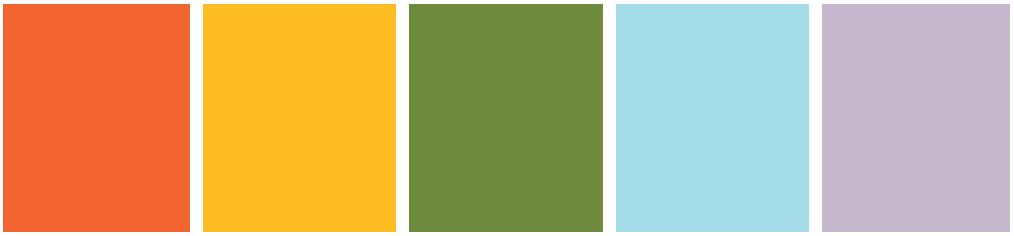
This perennial hails from the salt meadows of southeastern and central Europe, giving rise to the common name "sea lavender." It forms clouds of airy purple flowers which are beautiful both fresh and dried.

Sensory Seek and Find

Use your senses to explore everything the Garden has to offer!

Look

The Garden is a kaleidoscope of color! **Match the colors below to the stem, leaf or flower of a plant.** Can you find your favorite color?



Listen

Turn off your other senses and listen for nature noises.

Can you hear...

- The **buzz** of a busy bee
- The **whoosh** of a breeze through the trees
- The **tweet** of a singing bird
- The **plop** of a frog jumping into the water

What other nature noises can you hear?

Touch

Yes, you can touch the plants! Be gentle and remember to leave everything in place as you explore texture. **Can you find…**

- A leaf that is soft and fuzzy
- A leaf that is rough like sandpaper
- A flower with sticky nectar
- A flower with dusty pollen

Smell

Some flowers and leaves have a scent to attract insects or deter pests.

Follow your nose to these scents!

- Two roses that smell different
- Lavender: What does the smell remind you of?
- Something that smells stinky

Did you know…

Flowers are different colors to help attract pollinators! Hummingbirds like red flowers, for example.

Guess What…

The texture of a leaf is often an adaptation for survival. A prickly leaf might prevent animals from eating it; a fuzzy leaf can keep in water so the plant doesn't dry out.

Before you go…

Extend your visit and check out the **Wells Fargo Rose Garden, John Pat Dorrian Trail** and the **Robert D. Ray Asian Gardens**.