Plant of the Week Compilation
Summer Internship Program 2023
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Internship Program

The Bloedel Reserve Horticulture Internship Program offers a transformative educational experience for students passionate about public horticulture. Spanning 8 to 9 weeks, this immersive program provides hands-on learning opportunities in diverse garden areas, complemented by weekly educational sessions and an enriching field trip. Interns rotate among garden area managers, arborists, turf specialists, communications, and visitor experience staff, gaining invaluable insights into various aspects of public garden operations. Each week focuses on a different learning module, covering essential topics like plant identification, propagation, composting, integrated pest management, social media, and visitor experience, broadening their understanding of the larger organizational dynamics. The pinnacle of the program is the intern-led landscape improvement project, showcasing acquired skills and creativity. Gardens North Manager, Sean Peterson, leads the program along with staff input and feedback.
As a part of their continual plant ID learning, interns participate in a “plant-of-the-week” activity on Fridays. Each week of the program is assigned a different area of the Reserve for the interns to select a plant from, giving them a chance to explore all regions of the garden in depth. After choosing their plant, interns research and give a short presentation on their organism with the other interns and the garden manager of the assigned area. Not only does this process help with identification and exploration, but it also encourages curiosity, relationship building, and comfort with the grounds.

This booklet is a compilation of the interns’ weekly plant picks during the 2023 Summer Internship Program, and was created by one of the interns for their Communications Project.
Hakonechloa macra
Japanese Forest Grass

Native to central Japan, *Hakonechloa macra* is traditionally found on rocky cliffs or in wooded areas and is recognized by its cascading bamboo-like leaves, which mimic the movement of rippling water when they catch even the slightest breeze. The variegation of these leaves is dependent on the plant’s sun exposure and growing conditions. Within the correct environment, it can express green, golden, or even striped leaves. Growing in rhizomatous clumps, this perennial grass is easy to maintain, and due to this, it can be seen in a variety of planting locations (including paths, slopes, containers, underplantings, urban spaces, and more). Here on the Reserve, *H. macra* can not only be spotted in the Residence landscape but in the Arrival Garden and Arboretum as well. Its adaptability, dramatic look, and toughness make it a common choice for gardeners all over.
Hydrangea macrophylla
‘Jōgasaki’
‘Jōgasaki’ Lacecap Hydrangea

Hydrangea macrophylla ‘Jōgasaki’ produces vibrant flowers, ranging from royal blue to bubble-gum pink, and it puts on quite the show in the summer months. The color corresponds to the pH level of the soil; in alkaline soil, pink flowers will grow, while in acid soils, a blue-purple coloration will be demonstrated. It is a deciduous shrub, whose flowerheads are comprised of small, fertile inner flowers surrounded by a crown of sterile, double ray florets. This distinct flowerhead arrangement is unique to the Lace Cap hydrangea group. Preferring moist, well-drained soil, and partial shade, it is relatively hardy and tolerant. This shrub is well suited for flower beds, borders, and courtyards, as well as city, cottage, informal, and cut flower gardens.
Crocosmia 'Lucifer'
Montbretia ‘Lucifer’

Originating in South Africa, Crocosmia 'Lucifer' is a cormous perennial that can grow 1.5–2.5 meters in height, with a clump-spreading habit. This sprawling tendency can become a bother if the plant is not well-maintained. Division of clumps is a common solution, taking place in early spring. Along with bright-green, spear-shaped leaves, 'Lucifer' exhibits fiery-red, tubular flowers, which shoot out from bowing, wiry stems. The flowers are oriented in a fern-like pattern with a central axis and increasingly young buds sprouting out to either side. This defined and showy bloom, along with the plant's resilient and dependable nature, make it a top pick for gardeners. Crocosmia can be used in flower beds, borders, coastal, informal, cottage, and cut flower gardens. At the Reserve, these flowers add a pop of summer color to the front of the Residence.
Athyrium niponicum pictum
Japanese Painted Fern

Delicate, multicolored fronds are what give the Japanese Painted Fern its name. The leaves are a subtle grey-green accented by a stroke of silvery white brushed down the center of each pinna. Silvering in the leaves is most prominent for several weeks in the spring, as they deepen in green with warm summer weather. Due to this, the finest frond color is achieved in partial shade. *Athyrium niponicum pictum* tends to arch and is a fairly small fern, growing to ultimately be 0.1-0.5 meters tall after 2-5 years of growth. Its size along with the contrast between its pale blades and maroon-colored stalks make it quite an ornamental plant, and a good choice for shady edges or rock gardens. Rather unassuming from afar, it takes a keen eye to spot it.
Plants of
The Nursery
Polygonatum macropodum
Big Foot Solomon’s Seal

*Polygonatum macropodum* is a tall, herbaceous perennial that grows from rhizomatic rootstocks which form in clusters. The stems are leafy and branchless and can reach a height of 4’ when mature. Its leaves are one of its most defined elements, being large, alternating, and distinctly veined. From May to June, small, white, tubular flowers blossom and hang from the stalk beneath the leaves like miniature lanterns. Bees are a common pollinator of the plant, but self-fertilization also occurs. In September, the blooms will have ripened into seeds. Originating from China, Big Foot Solomon’s Seal naturally grows in forested areas and shady slopes at an elevation of 400 - 1500 meters. This makes it an excellent choice for beds and woodland or shaded gardens.
**Stachys albotomentosa**

'Hidalgo'

Seven-Up Plant

A perennial loved by people and pollinators, *Stachys albotomentosa* 'Hidalgo' is best known for its iconic scent, which reminds many of 7-Up soda. This plant blooms throughout the summer, producing whorls of salmon-pink flowers whose color and fragrance attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. A member of the mint family (Lamiaceae), *S. albotomentosa* 'Hidalgo' is hardy, sprawling, and pest-resistant, yet much less aggressive than some of its relatives. Its pale-green leaves are similar to those of *Mentha suaveolens* (Apple mint), with a felt-like, fuzzy texture due to thousands of tiny, soft, white hairs that cover the surface. This plant can grow to be 16 inches tall and is great in containers, coastal beds, or even cut flower gardens.
Ornithogalum regale
Golden Berg Lily

*Ornithogalum regale* is a simple yet elegant bulb that originates in South Africa. There, it can be found growing in rocky, shallow soil on sheer cliffs. Although it may seem that this plant would be rather tolerant due to its natural environment, it requires a moderate amount of maintenance in cultivation. Needing proper irrigation, consisting of well-drained soil, and regular, even moisture, the Golden Berg Lily can be prone to bulb rot or dehydration without the right conditions. However, its regal, subdued appearance makes a bit of extra care well worth it. It displays broad, bright leaves that spring from the base of a tall stem from which pendulous, bell-shaped flowers hang. The subtle, white or green hue of the flowers only accentuates their graceful form. This plant will add a touch of beauty to any garden space.
**Pterocephalus hookeri**

Hooker’s Pterocephalus

A quirky, Dr. Seuss-like plant, *Pterocephalus hookeri* is native to high-altitude hillsides and meadows throughout different parts of Asia. This includes regions in China, Tibet, Bhutan, and Nepal. It is a perennial herb that has many historical and modern medicinal and chemical uses. In traditional Tibetan medicine, *P. hookeri* has been used to treat arthritis, fevers, plagues, and more. It has a thick, anchoring tap-root and basal leaves that look like green scoopulas. Shooting out of these leaf clumps are thin, lanky stems, each topped with a singular, spherical flowerhead. This pom-pom-looking structure is made up of tightly clustered white flowers with stamens jutting out slightly. As the flowers mature, the stamens darken and protrude more, as pictured to the right. *P. hookeri* truly is a curious specimen that can add interest to any garden.
Plants of
The Glen
**Diphyleia cymosa**  
Umbrella Leaf

*Diphyleia cymosa*, widely known as Umbrella Leaf, is a member of the Berberidaceae family. It gets its common name from its broad, umbrella-like leaves which can have a diameter of up to 60 centimeters across. Each leaf is made up of two lobes with coarsely toothed edges. Protruding from the broad foliage are thin, green stems that hold a cluster of little, white, 6-petalled flowers in the spring and summer. As the flowers pass, they give way to dusty, navy blue berries. During this point in time, the flower stems shift from green to a vibrant red color, as pictured to the left. This coloration contrasts perfectly with the plant’s fruit and makes it eye-catching throughout the year. It has a clumping habit, with an ultimate spread of about 0.1-0.5 meters. A group of *D. cymosa* can be found at the bottom of the Horseshoe Trail in the Glen.
**Platycrater arguta**

Tea of Heaven

Native to Shanghai, China, and Shikoku, Japan, *Platycrater arguta* is a small, deciduous, perennial shrub that can grow to a maximum height of about 4 feet. In these countries, *P. arguta* is considered an endangered species due to the loss of much of its native habitat. It has narrow, lance-shaped, dark green leaves which are subtly toothed along the margins. Traditionally, these leaves have been made into teas which have then been used to wash and baptize statues of the Buddha. Having two separate types of blooms, this plant displays both sterile and fertile flowers. The fertile flowers are highlighted in the photo to the right, with four distinct, white petals and fluffy, yellow centers. This dual-flower trait is common to some other members of the Hydrangeaceae family, like Lace Cap hydrangeas. An unusual shrub, *P. arguta* is a perfect fit for woodland shade gardens.
Podophyllum 'Spotty Dotty'

Podophyllum 'Spotty Dotty' is another member of the Berberidaceae family, and possesses a similar shape to that of Diphylleia cymosa (p. 20). Clearly getting its name from its dappled leaves, 'Spotty Dotty' is a well-known and eye-catching plant. These large leaves are palmately lobed and rather bumpy, which only intensifies their texture when combined with their mottled coloration. During the summer months, this plant produces dark, ruby red, tassel-like flowers in large clusters that hang from the leaf axil of two-leaved plants. Although these blooms are very showy, they are concealed under the enormous leaves. This mayapple is an herbaceous perennial that can reach a maximum height and spread of 1-1.5 feet and 0.75-1 feet respectively.
Kalmia latifolia
Mountain Laurel

*Kalmia latifolia*, or Mountain Laurel, can be found ranging from a medium-sized, dense shrub to a small, elegant, gnarled tree. Here on the Reserve, we have the latter growing at the top of the Rhododendron Glen. It greets you as you first step foot on the barked path at the top of the Horseshoe Trail. In the late spring and early summer, this plant displays delicate, pale pink flowers which are cup-shaped. What is particularly interesting about these blossoms is their ridged, almost spiked, outer shape that is marked on the inside by purple dots. Their buds are also attractively shaped, as can be seen in the picture. The leaves do not defy gravity like the flowers do, and instead bow down. They are dark green, leathery, and glossy, with a simple shape. Being evergreen, *K. latifolia* provides nice, reliable foliage year-round.
**Pieris japonica**
Japanese Andromeda

Native to Japan, *Pieris japonica* was traditionally planted in the gardens surrounding teahouses, temples, and shrines. It is said that the wood from these evergreen shrubs has been used in the posts of tokonomas, which are raised alcoves found in Japanese teahouses. With tiny, white, urn-shaped flowers that cascade in clusters during spring, *P. japonica* has acquired the nickname “lily-of-the-valley bush”. Amid the warmth of late summer, the flowers transform into a chain of pearl-like buds. The beauty of this plant is not only found in its delicate blooms but also in its leaves. Maturing to become simple, glossy, and green, sometimes with white-lined edges like in the photo to the left, the leaves of *P. japonica* begin as a reddish-copper color. A fascinating growth habit, this phenomenon is eye-catching during the plant’s season of development.
Cornus kousa
Kousa Dogwood

*Cornus kousa* is a deciduous, free-flowering tree or shrub. These flowers deceive many. The four iconic, large, white, oval "petals" that are distinctly displayed by the plant are actually bracts. The true flowers are tiny and cream-colored, and they densely cluster around the spherical center. After flowering, the round, berry-like, reddish-pink fruits develop. A premature fruit is shown to the right; they ripen in autumn. These curious-looking fruits are technically edible, and some say they taste similar to apricots. In the fall, the glossy, ovate leaves transform into a fine reddish-purple, sometimes even scarlet. The trunk is clothed in a fascinating, mottled bark which can be highlighted in winter, showing how the tree provides interest year-round. This plant is much less susceptible to pests and diseases than our native dogwood, making it a great alternative.
*Pinus parviflora*

**Japanese White Pine**

*Pinus parviflora* is an evergreen conifer native to southern and central Japan, and Korea. Also known as Japanese White Pine, this tree gets its name from its needles, which are colored white on their inner surfaces, and a nice blue-green on the outside. In the autumn, *P. parviflora* produces light toffee-brown, ovoid cones whose seeds can be propagated in late winter. The needles grow in groups of five and develop into tufts, which are generally thickly concentrated on the ends of the branches. This makes Japanese White Pine a great option for pruning and shaping into ornamental forms. When the tree is mature enough, yet still rather small, one is able to achieve a very artful, cloud-like shape that showcases the intricacies of the tree's structure. This practice can be witnessed here on the Reserve in the Japanese Garden, where the specimen to the left is located.
Acer japonicum
'Aconitifolium'
Cutleaf Full-Moon Maple

Although it is now most widely known as 'Aconitifolium', Acer japonicum 'Aconitifolium' has had a history of novel names. Originally, it was called 'Maiku jaku', which translates to dancing peacock. Over the years it has also been called Fernleaf Full-Moon and Cutleaf Full-Moon, both based on its recognizable leaf shape. Almost resembling finely cut paper snowflakes, this maple’s leaves are palmately lobed, and deeply divided into 7-11 feathery, toothed sections. In the autumn, each leaf changes from light green to a breathtaking crimson color, turning the whole tree into a vivid red globe. Come the following spring, barely noticeable, ruby flowers will dangle beneath the new shoots, soon yielding samaras that will helicopter down to the ground in fall.
Plants of
The Arrival
Garden
Calluna vulgaris 'Silver Knight'

Heather 'Silver Knight'

A particularly stunning variety of heather, Calluna vulgaris 'Silver Knight' is hardy, low-maintenance, slow-growing, and evergreen. It is highly tolerant to soil variation, drought, full sun, and exposure. Working brilliantly as a ground cover or filler, it’s spike-like form and varied height give it a captivating texture. The plant adds seasonal interest throughout the year, with its blooms and foliage. When the picture to the left was taken, in mid-August, it can be seen how each individual leaf is covered in a white fuzz that almost looks like frost. This is what gives it that downy, silvery-grey color. Previous to when the photo was taken, its spire-shaped racemes of tiny flowers bloomed a delicate lavender, and each spear was dressed in a blanket of miniature, purple bells.
Salvia yangii 'Little Spire'
Russian Sage

For years, Salvia yangii was known as Perovskia atriplicifolia; Russian Sage was not even classified as a true sage. Yet within the past decade, this plant has been re-classified as a Salvia, which is the largest genus of plants in the Lamiaceae (sage) family. The particular cultivar of Russian Sage that can be found in the Arrival Garden is 'Little Spire'. This plant is a dwarfed version of some of its relatives and grows to about 2' tall on average. Many love this plant because it is genuinely deer-resistant, yet still brightly beautiful. Its tiered whorls of violet-blue flowers attract pollinators of all sorts. Pictured to the left is a cute orange butterfly, but bees are also heavily abundant around this perennial. Besides being pollinator-friendly and pest-repellent, it is also drought-tolerant and can bloom through both summer and fall.
Styrax japonicus
Japanese Snowbell

Blooming from May to June, Styrax japonicus is a deciduous flowering tree with graceful, pendulous blossoms. Also known as Japanese Snowbell, its flowers are waxy, white, and bell-shaped. Due to the upward-facing posture of the leaves, the many delicate clusters of flowers are easily seen dripping from beneath the branches. Each individual "bell" is comprised of five distinct petals and a conically formed group of yellow stamens. Following the flowers are egg-shaped, pale green drupes with hat-like calyces. These tiny ornaments arrive in late summer and adorn the tree through autumn. In this tree’s place of origin, parts of the fruit have traditionally been used to make soaps, insecticides, and powders, while the wood was used for walking sticks, umbrella ribbing, and toys. With its overall aesthetic appeal, S. japonicus adds a touch of elegance to any garden.
Arctostaphylos densiflora

‘Howard McMinn’

Howard McMinn Manzanita

Sometimes referred to as “everyman’s manzanita,” Arctostaphylos densiflora ‘Howard McMinn’ is renowned for its resilience in various environmental conditions. It possesses the ability to thrive in a range of soil types, requires little irrigation, and is drought tolerant. Aside from being a perfect candidate for areas that endure sunny summers, it is also winter-hardy and can survive 0-10° F. This Western native is both dependable and decorative, with smooth, reddish-brown bark, and striking, glossy green leaves. Its dense foliage is very uniform and almost puzzlingly vertical. In late winter, pink or white urn-shaped flowers appear in showy clusters and persist into spring. Its versatility and ease make it a favorite among gardeners and landscapers alike.
Plants of
The Bird Marsh & Meadow
Cotula lineariloba
Big Yellow Moon

*Cotula lineariloba*, also called Big Yellow Moon, Cape Weed, Button Weed, or Brass Buttons, is a low-growing, mat-forming plant native to South Africa and Lesotho. Its distinctive feathery, linear lobed leaves are frothy, silvery-green, and soft to the touch. Poking out of the dense foliage are teeny-tiny, bright yellow, button-like flowers that bop around on long, thin, wiry stems during the spring and summertime. Its carpet-like form makes it perfect for filling in gaps between stepping stones or empty areas under taller plants. This perennial reaches maximum heights of 10 to 20 centimeters, making it somewhat unnoticeable and easy to miss if one isn't looking closely. It thrives in full sun to partial shade, likes light, well-drained soil, and is very hardy. Planting *C. lineariloba* is an easy way to add a touch of color, texture, and charm to any garden space.
Cirsium edule
Edible Thistle

Found in various regions of North America, including parts of Washington and Oregon, *Cirsium edule* is a biennial to perennial herb that is commonly known as Edible Thistle or Indian Thistle. Although it appears rather intimidating, with a densely spined structure, this plant has traditionally been gathered and consumed by Indigenous peoples and foragers. The young flower stalks are harvested in spring, and then peeled and eaten raw. Young, tender shoots from the thistle are also appreciated, raw or cooked. Apart from its culinary use, *C. edule* also holds cultural significance for some Indigenous communities, who have historically used it for medicinal purposes. In the wild, this resilient plant can be found in various areas including meadows, roadsides, forest edges and openings, and in the mountains at low to middle elevations.
Sympathyotrichum laeve
Smooth Blue Aster

Named after its cute violet-blue flowers and smooth stems, *Sympathyotrichum laeve*, or Smooth Blue Aster, is a perennial flowering plant native to North America. Its blooms feature periwinkle-colored rays, with yellow center discs, and appear between August and October. Beautifully contrasting the coloration of the blossoms, the slender stems and leaves are a mix of maroon and green. *S. laeve* only asks for full sun, otherwise being low maintenance, drought-tolerant, and easy to grow. The late bloom time of this wildflower allows color to persist in the garden at a point when many other plants have passed their peak. That factor is also important for the many pollinators, like bees and butterflies, that depend on this aster as a source of nectar.
Festuca idahoensis ssp. Roemeri
Roemer’s Fescue

Festuca idahoensis ssp. Roemeri, also called Roemer’s Fescue, is a subspecies of grass native to North America, particularly in regions like the Intermountain West and the Rocky Mountains. Known for its fine-textured, bunch-forming growth habit, this grass is able to thrive in various soil types, from well-draining sandy soils to heavier clay soils. Additionally, its drought tolerance and resistance to grazing make it a popular choice for revegetation, and sustainable landscaping practices. Roemer’s Fescue is a key plant in restoration efforts and projects aimed at preserving or cultivating native vegetation. As one of the "good guys," it has been planted in the Meadow with the hope that it will eventually overtake the other invasive grass species present.
The Moss Garden
Darlingtonia californica
Cobra Lily

A peculiar and intriguing carnivorous plant species, *Darlingtonia californica* is native to northern California and Oregon. Its elongated, hollow leaves and bulbous, hood-like top structure resemble a striking cobra, which is how it got the common name, Cobra Lily. In order to adapt to nutrient-deficient environments, *D. californica* uses translucent "windows" on its leaves and a sweet nectar secretion to capture insects within its tubular structure. There they are unable to escape due to downward-pointing hairs and slick surfaces, and so they fall into a pool of enzymes secreted by the plant, which aid in the digestion of the prey. This system provides the cobra plant with essential nutrients that it lacks in the acidic bogs and wetlands where it grows.
Austroblechnum penna-marina
Alpine Water Fern

*Austroblechnum penna-marina* is a petite, dimorphic fern, that grows to about 4-8 inches at maturity. Being dimorphic, this fern has two different types of fronds. The dusty, reddish-brown, vertical fronds pictured to the right are the fertile parts of the plant and are responsible for producing and dispersing the spores. Their upright posture is an effective adaptation that allows the reproductive cells to be spread via gentle air currents. The sterile fronds are green, small, and horizontally oriented with tiny, thumb-shaped leaves. This portion of the organism is what undergoes photosynthesis and keeps the plant flourishing. The size and hardiness of *A. penna-marina* make it a popular choice as a groundcover or in areas among logs and rocks.
The wide, finely sawtoothed green leaves of *Populus tremuloides* are attached to the branches on flat petioles which easily catch the wind. With the slightest breeze, these trees make a loud rustling sound, which is where they get the name Quaking Aspen. This specie’s primary method of reproduction is clonally via root suckers. Extending unimaginably vast distances, the root systems of *P. tremuloides* connect a stand of trees as a single organism. These extensive networks are why Pando, a clone of male Quaking Aspen, is considered the oldest living organism in the world. It spreads over 106 acres and has been around for at least 80,000 years. For a while, Pando was believed to be the largest living organism as well. Having the widest range of any tree in North America, Quaking Aspens can last through their root systems for centuries.
Rhododendron stenopetalum ‘Linearifolium’

Rhododendron ‘Linearifolium’

Native to parts of Japan and Korea, *Rhododendron stenopetalum* ‘Linearifolium’ is a very rare and bizarre member of its genus. This azalea variety stands out for its extremely linear leaves, which depart from the typical broader foliage seen in most rhododendron species. It showcases delicate, firework-shaped flowers that are deeply divided into five narrow segments. These blooms emerge during early spring, in shades ranging from bright fuchsia pink to soft violet purple. *Rhododendron* ‘Linearifolium’ cannot be found in the wild, it is difficult to propagate, and it is susceptible to many pests and diseases, which is why there is only one growing on the Reserve. These factors make it quite special to spot it thriving in the Moss Garden.
Plants of
Celosia argentea var. plumosa 'Forest Fire'

Celosia Forest Fire

One of the most intensely colored plants on the Reserve, *Celosia argentea* var. *plumosa* 'Forest Fire' is a striking cultivar of the plumed celosia or feathered amaranth. It is aptly named due to its plume-like flower heads that resemble burning flames, in both shape and color. This annual flowering plant blooms through summer and into fall, enjoying the warm temperatures. Its feathery, saturated, fiery scarlet look makes it perfect for adding a bold burst of color and texture to garden beds, borders, and containers. Additionally, its long-lasting flower spikes can be used fresh or dried to add contrast to cut flower arrangements. With its dramatic presence and easy cultivation, this plant is favored by gardeners looking to create a vivid visual impact in their landscapes.
**Amaranthus caudatus**

*Coral Fountain*

Coral Fountain Amaranth

Appearing as though it grew straight out of a whimsical fairytale, *Amaranthus caudatus* ‘Coral Fountain,’ is a captivating ornamental plant prized for its playful flower spikes. These long, pendulous, bright coral-pink inflorescences dangle gracefully from upright stems, resembling cascading fountains of frothy water. The striking structural form of the blooms adds a dramatic touch to garden landscapes, containers, and borders. While Coral Fountain Amaranth is mainly grown for its visual appeal, its seeds are also edible and can be used in cooking or as a nutritious grain source. This plant’s exceptional image makes it a top choice for gardeners seeking to infuse their outdoor spaces or large-scale arrangements with a touch of originality.
Phlox paniculata
Garden Phlox

*Phlox paniculata*, commonly known as Garden Phlox or Summer Phlox, is a striking perennial plant cherished for its vibrant and plentiful blossoms. Native to North America, this species brightens up gardens and landscapes with its many, colorful clusters of flowers that range from white to pastel purple to neon pink. Its simple, lance-shaped leaves provide a lush, contrasting backdrop to the profusion of flat-faced, five-petaled blooms. With an upright clump-forming habit and a maximum height of 1-1.5 meters, Garden Phlox can occupy a considerable amount of space. It prefers moist, well-drained soil and is relatively hardy. Its name "phlox" comes from the Greek word φλόγα (pronounced flóga) which means flame. This is likely a nod to the plant’s vibrant blossoms. *P. paniculata* is a perfect choice for cut flower and low-maintenance gardens.
Lathyrus odoratus

Sweet Pea

*Lathyrus odoratus*, or Sweet Pea, is a climbing, flowering annual. This vine produces delicate, pea-like flowers in a wide array of hues, including pink, purple, red, white, and various bi-color combinations. Hundreds of cultivars have been grown, and so it is common to see a variety of bloom appearances, even upon a single plant. They grow via creeping tendrils, that slowly ascend trellises, fences, arbors, or walls, adding vertical interest to outdoor spaces. It is definitely recommended to use some form of support during cultivation. Due to their similar appearance, and equally similar names, it is easy to mistake Sweet Peas for Snap Peas. It is important to take note of this and exercise caution because while Snap Peas are fully edible, and a common vegetable, Sweet Peas are not, and parts of the plant can be toxic if ingested.