PLANT GUIDE

Spring

China is home to more than 30,000 plant species – one-eighth of the world’s total. At Lan Su, visitors can enjoy hundreds of these plants, many of which have a rich symbolic and cultural history in China. This guide is a selected look at some of Lan Su’s current favorites.

Please return this guide to the Garden Host at the entrance when your visit is over.
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K  Quince  
L  Crabapple  
M  Rhododendron*  
N  Winter Jasmine  
O  Kerria  
P  Bergenia  
Q  Iris  
R  Corydalis  

* For a complete list of these species, please request a master species list at the entrance. It is also available online at www.lansugarden.org/plants
**Clematis** *(Clematis armandii ‘Appleblossom’, C. fasciculiflora)*

*C. armandii* is native to China. Look for the soft-pink, lightly fragrant ‘Apple Blossom’ cultivar above the moon gate. *C. fasciculiflora* is a rare Chinese species with small, fragrant white flowers. Its young foliage has distinctive, silver center stripes.

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**Winter Daphne** *(Daphne ‘Aureomarginata’, D. odora)*

This evergreen shrub explodes with clusters of pink flowers in winter that have a rich, orange blossom-like scent. The original Chinese name for this plant is “sleeping scent”. Legend has it that a monk fell asleep beneath the cliffs of the ancient Lu Mountain. There he dreamt of an impossibly sweet fragrance, only to awake and find himself next to this sweetly fragrant plant.

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**Chinese Paper Bush** *(Edgeworthia ‘Red Dragon’, E. chrysantha)*

Native to China, this deciduous shrub is a relative of sweet Daphne. In winter, frosty silver buds open to clusters of intoxicatingly fragrant, golden-yellow or orange flowers. The Chinese made paper from this plant by pounding flat the stems and bark.

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**Lushan Honeysuckle** *(Lonicera modesta var. lushanensis)*

This deciduous to semi-evergreen shrub produces tubular white flowers that run the length of vigorous, vine-like branches during winter. Its sweet and fresh fragrance can be detected even on cold, rainy spring days.

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**Magnolia** *(Magnolia x soulangiana)*

For additional magnolia varieties, see the Master Species List

China is home to more magnolia species than any other country. Certain species have been cultivated for well over a thousand years. Look for their white and pink blooms on bare branches throughout the garden.

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**Forsythia** *(Forsythia x intermedia ‘Lynwood Gold’)*

Long cultivated in Chinese gardens, forsythia has become popular in gardens throughout the world. Cut branches can be forced to bloom early, when brought indoors.

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**Chinese Fringe Flower** *(Loropetalum chinesis, Loropetalum ‘Snow Dance’)*

This evergreen shrub is in the witch hazel family. Lan Su has several purple-leaved specimens whose magenta flowers provide bright color in spring and summer. An additional green-leaved specimen with white flowers sits along the pond edge in front of the teahouse.

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**Camellia** *(Camellia japonica ‘Drama Girl’)*

For additional camellia varieties, see the Master Species List

The camellia has long been a favorite garden plant in China. The ornamental species frequently used in traditional Chinese gardens were *C. japonica*, *C. reticulata* and *C. sasanqua*. The Chinese were cultivating camellias at least as early as the 11th century.
Quince (Chaenomeles japonica 'Atsuya Hamada')
Quince have long been grown in Chinese gardens and are also used in penjing, Chinese miniature potted landscapes. Collected in the wild by Northwest plantsman, Roy Davidson, 'Atsuya Hamada' has deep red flowers that are translucent when backlit by the setting sun.

Rhododendron (Rhododendron oreotrephes)
For additional rhododendron varieties, see the Master Species List
Its common name in Chinese is associated with the 'rooster'. An ancient poem links the bird's seasonal singing with the rhododendron's springtime bloom. Find stunning examples of colorful hybrids and species rhododendrons flowering throughout April and May.

Do you have a question about a specific plant? Email Lan Su’s Horticulture department at info@lansugarden.org for more information.