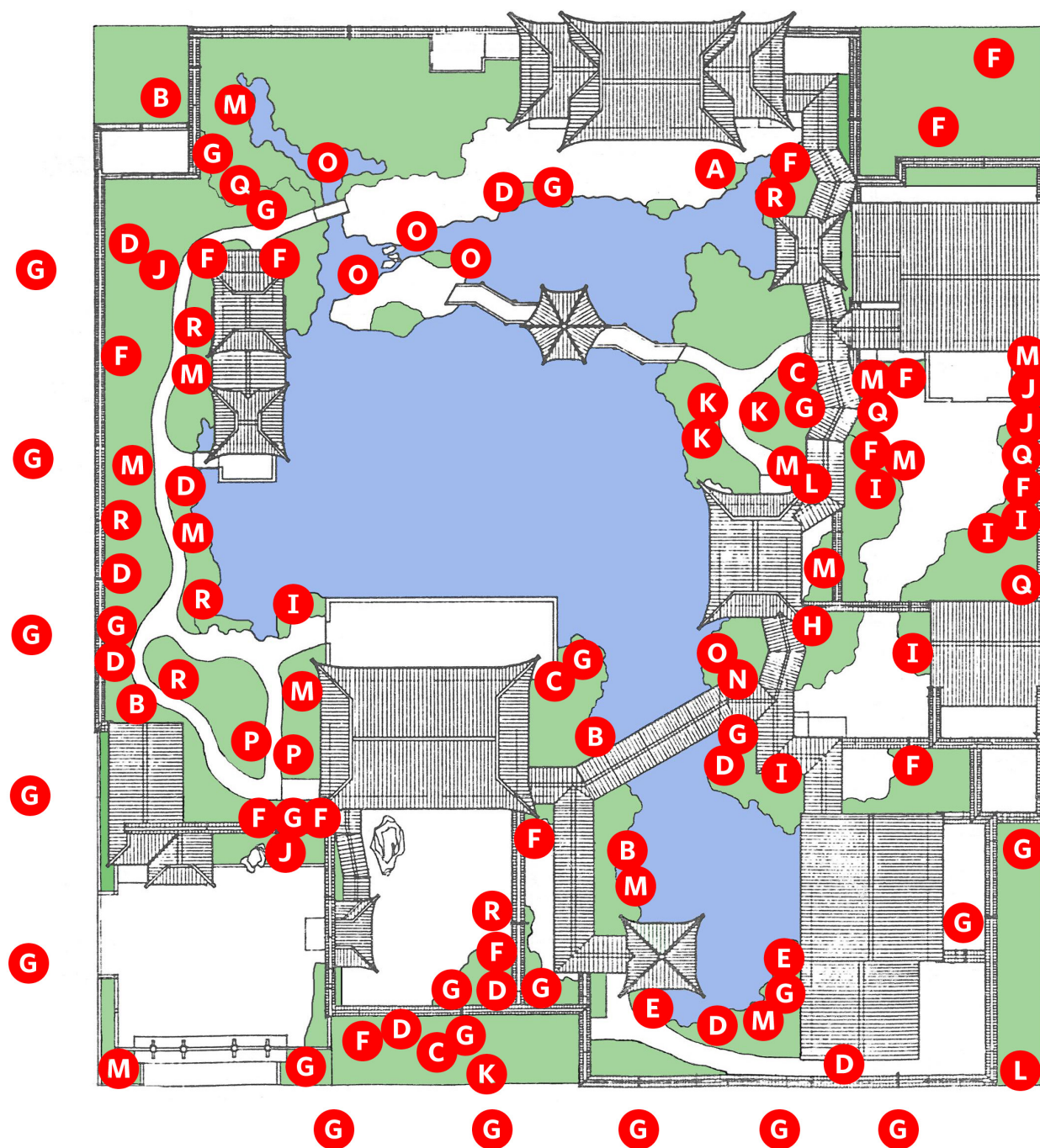


PLANT GUIDE

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.



- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| A Katsura | G Magnolia* | M Rhododendron* |
| B Chinese Paper Bush | H Lushan Honeysuckle | N Camellia reticulata |
| C Winter Daphne | I Peony* | O Kerria |
| D Chinese Fringe Flower | J Chinese Plum | P Bergenia |
| E Forsythia | K Quince | Q Iris |
| F Camellia* | L Crabapple | R Orchid |

PLANT GUIDE

Spring

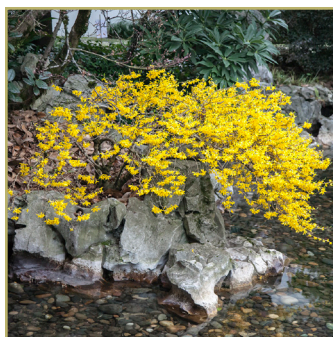


KATSURA

A

(*Cercidiphyllum japonicum* 'Pendula')

This unusual weeping variety of Katsura is a showstopper year round with its ethereal beauty. Rarely found in Chinese Gardens, the leaves begin to emerge in March opening fully to heart shaped green golden leaves on graceful branches. Come back in the early Autumn for its sweetly scented golden leaves.



FORSYTHIA

E

(*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.



CHINESE PAPER BUSH

B

(*Edgeworthia* 'Akebono,' *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.



CAMELLIA

F

(*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 495 B.C.E.



WINTER DAPHNE

C

(*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.

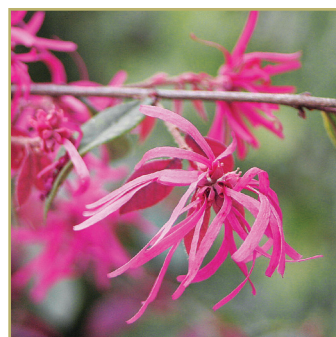


MAGNOLIA

G

(*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, pink and yellow blooms on bare branches throughout the garden.



CHINESE FRINGE FLOWER

D

(*Loropetalum chinense*, *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.

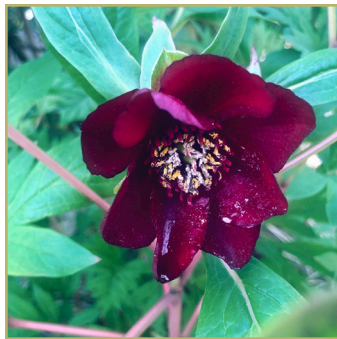


LUSHAN HONEYSUCKLE

H

(*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.



PEONY

I

(*Paeonia delvayi*, *suffruticosa* and varieties)

The peony has been cultivated in China for millennia. Early uses were purely medicinal yet by the seventh century, its large, colorful fragrant blooms were highly sought after. Different from herbaceous peonies, Lan Su has several “tree peonies” or shrubs with woody tissue.



CHINESE CAMELLIA

N

(*Camellia reticulata*, ‘Dr. Clifford Parks’)

Cultivated in Yunnan over a thousand years ago, this beloved Chinese camellia have used in art and mentions many times in literature reveared for their large peony like blooms. During the Ming dynasty they were known across much of central China becoming possibly the most loved camellia. 600 year old specimens can still be found in Yunnan. Dr. Clifford Parks is a recent cultivar.



CHINESE PLUM

J

(*Prunus mume*, *P. mume* ‘Kobai,’ *P. mume* ‘Alba’)

One of the most culturally significant plants in China, *P. mume* is one of the “Three Friends of Winter” (along with pine and bamboo) given its ability to flower in the coldest months. The flower’s five petals can also represent the five blessings of longevity, health, wealth, love of virtue and a natural death.



KERRIA

O

(*Kerria japonica*, *Kerria j.* ‘Pleniflora’ & *Kerria j.* ‘Golden Guinea’)

Planted in many Chinese gardens, this understated classic can be found in our garden around the shoreline of Lake Zither and close to our waterfall.



FLOWERING QUINCE

K

(*Chaenomeles japonica* ‘Atsuya Hamada’ & ‘Contorta’)

Flowering Quince have long been grown in Chinese gardens and are also used in *penjing*, Chinese miniature potted landscapes.

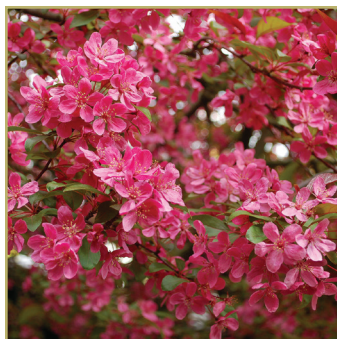


BERGENIA

P

(*Bergenia emeiensis* ‘Snow Chimes’)

A relatively new introduction from China, this perennial is native to the cliffs of Sichuan province. It’s shade-loving and evergreen with bell-like white flowers.



CRABAPPLE

L

(*Malus* ‘Prairie Fire,’ *M.* ‘Sugar Tyme’)

Crabapples have been used in Chinese gardens for over 1,000 years. Our ornamental species produce red fruits but are most admired for their five-petaled blossoms and zig-zag branches. Poets and painters since the seventh century have admired this plant as a symbol of feminine beauty.



IRIS

Q

(*Iris confusa* ‘Martyn Rix’)

Native to China, this unusual iris has foliage borne on bamboo-like stems and small orchid-like, purple blooms. Not reliably hardy, these iris survive our winters thanks to the walled, protective environment of the garden.



RHODODENDRON

M

(*Rhododendron oreotrephes*) For additional Rhododendron varieties, see the Master Species List

The Chinese common name of the azalea, a Rhododendron species, is dujuan and is associated with the cuckoo bird. Ancient poems link the bird’s seasonal singing with the its spring bloom time. Other Rhododendron species weren’t typically used in classical Chinese gardens, but are displayed here to represent the vast number of species found in China.



ORCHID

R

(*Cymbidium sinense*, *Bletilla striata*, *Bletilla ochracea*, *Cymbidium goeringii* and *C. ensifolium*)

The floral namesake of Lan Su Yuan: Garden of Awakening Orchid. Confucius was the one of the first to write about the cymbidium orchid over 2000 years ago and since has been used extensively in art and poetry. More often subtler than their tropical counterparts, bloom color ranges from pinks, brown, yellow, green and white.

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