



# PLANT GUIDE

## Summer

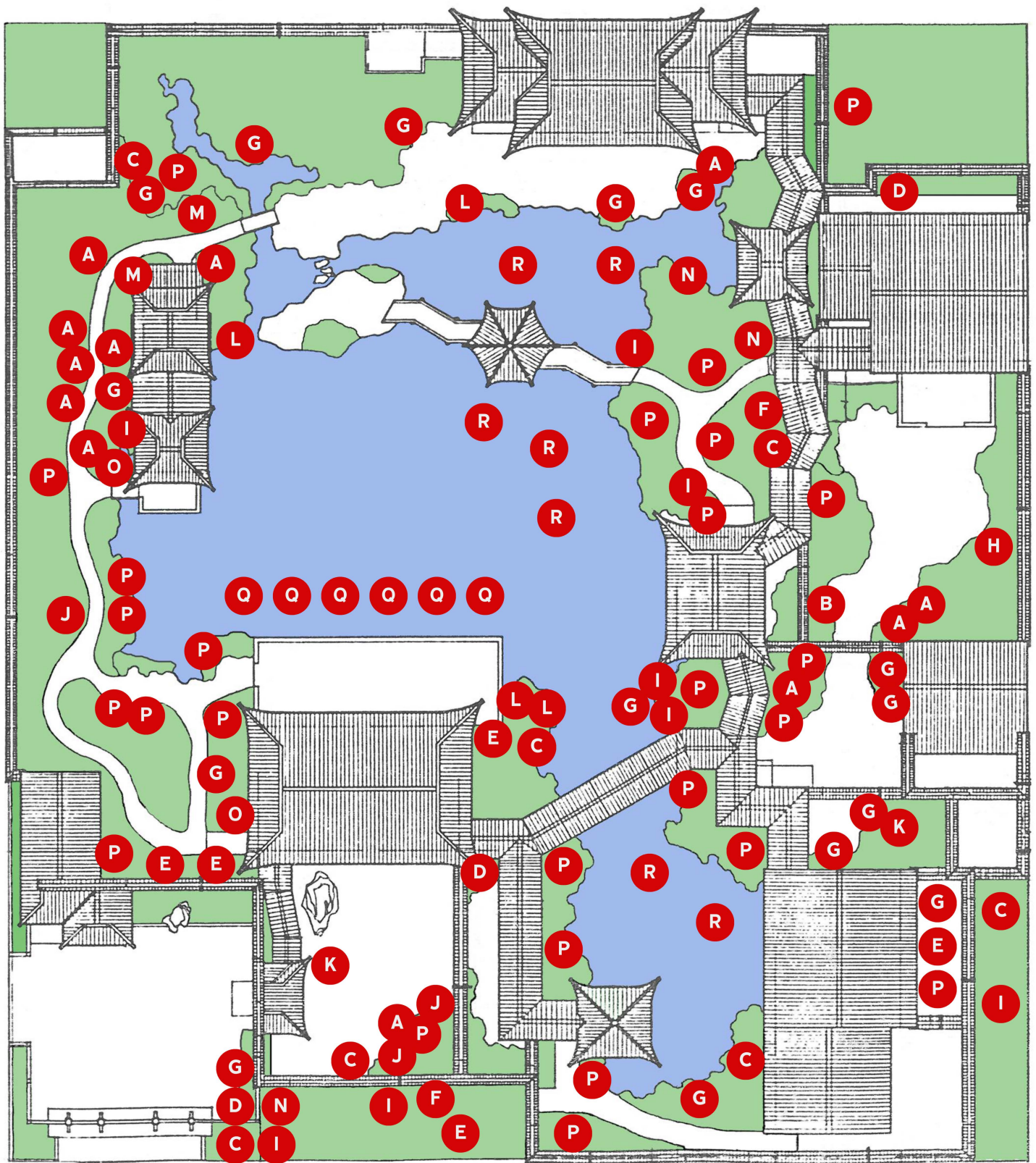


China is home to more than 30,000 plant species – one-eighth of the world's total. At Lan Su, visitors can enjoy hundreds of these plants, many of which have a rich symbolic and cultural history in China. This guide is a selected look at some of Lan Su's current favorites.



Please return this guide to the Garden Host at the entrance when your visit is over.





- |                                |                       |                       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>A</b> Gardenia              | <b>G</b> Star Jasmine | <b>M</b> Persicaria   |
| <b>B</b> Velvet Leaf Hydrangea | <b>H</b> Silk Tree    | <b>N</b> Hibiscus     |
| <b>C</b> Magnolia              | <b>I</b> Rose         | <b>O</b> Crape Myrtle |
| <b>D</b> Banana                | <b>J</b> Begonia      | <b>P</b> Lily Turf    |
| <b>E</b> Hosta                 | <b>K</b> Pomegranate  | <b>Q</b> Lotus        |
| <b>F</b> Evergreen Hydrangea   | <b>L</b> Hypericum    | <b>R</b> Water Lily   |

A master species list is available at the entrance. It is also available online at  
[WWW.LANSUGARDEN.ORG/PLANTS](http://WWW.LANSUGARDEN.ORG/PLANTS)



# PLANT GUIDE

## Summer



### GARDENIA

A

(*Gardenia 'Kleims Hardy'*)

Cultivated in China for nearly 1500 years. The roots, leaves and fruits are used in Chinese medicine and a popular motif for ceramics and other art forms. These evergreen shrubs with creamy star shaped flowers lend their fragrance in the garden's courtyards.



### HOSTA

E

(*Hosta plantaginea*)

Find these shade lovers tucked throughout the garden. Their pure white flowers are fragrant, especially at night. Cultivated since the Han dynasty (202 BCE to 220 CE), this plant's common name in China is "jade hairpin", referring to the use of the flower stalk as a hair ornament.



### VELVET-LEAF HYDRANGEA

B

(*Hydrangea aspera 'Macrophylla'*)

Native to China, this fuzzy leaved hydrangea has wonderful lace-cap flowers in summer and velvety soft leaves. The showy ring of white "flowers" are actually sterile and can change color, depending on the pH level in the soil.



### EVERGREEN HYDRANGEA

F

(*Dichroa febrifuga*, *D. versicolor*)

Native to China, these hydrangea relatives are semi-evergreen with dark green leaves. In summer, large mopheads of buds open into masses of tiny blue flowers



### MAGNOLIA

C

(*Magnolia delavayi*, *M. grandiflora*)

China is home to more magnolia species than any other country in the world. The garden's summer-blooming species include *M. delavayi* and *M. grandiflora*. Both produce large white, fragrant blooms. While not native to China, *M. grandiflora* has been used in gardens in China for over 300 years.



### STAR JASMINE

G

(*Trachelospermum jasminoides*)

Present in many temperate gardens throughout China, this evergreen vine is sweetly fragrant and can be found throughout Lan Su, often trailing over the rocks and on the exterior, at the base of the street trees.



### BANANA

D

(*Musa basjoo*)

Native to China, this cold-hardy species is used for ornamental effect, as its tiny, green fruits are inedible. All parts of the plant are used in traditional Chinese medicine and fibers from the stem can be used to make textiles.



### SILK TREE

H

(*Albizia julibrissin*)

Look high up to spot the striking pink, fluffy flowers of this Chinese plant. Its delicate fern-like foliage is light sensitive and will close up at night.





## ROSE

I

(*Rosa chinensis* 'Mutabilis', R. 'Sevillana')

*Rosa chinensis* 'Mutabilis' is a repeat-bloomer with flowers that change from pale yellow to peach then pink. It was used in the development of hybrid tea roses in England in the 19th century. *Rosa* 'Sevillana' with its bright red blooms was selected by the original designer as a nod to Portland's own namesake—"The City of Roses."



## HIBISCUS

N

(*Hibiscus syriacus* 'Aphrodite')

Cultivated in China for millennia. Believed to have reached the Middle East from China via the Silk road hence the species name *syriacus*. Mentioned in Chinese writings as early as 1000 BCE! Hibiscus leaves can sometimes be substituted for tea.



## BEGONIA

J

(*Begonia grandis* var *evansiana*)

The Chinese common name is Autumn Crabapple and for much of China's history been an esteemed garden plant. Its red ribbed almost translucent olive green leaves and delicate stalks adorned with waxy pink flowers make a perfect late summer floral arrangement.



## CRAPE MYRTLE

O

(*Lagerstroemia* 'Natchez' & 'Tuscarora')

This Chinese native was a favorite ornamental tree during the Tang dynasty (618-906 CE), when it was a common sight on palace grounds. Look up high for its dense clusters of crinkled blooms in late summer and below for its mottled, peeling bark.



## POMEGRANATE

K

(*Punica granatum* 'Nana' & 'California Sunset')

Although not native to China, the pomegranate has been widely used in Chinese gardens as a symbol of fertility, due to its many seeds. Our ornamental cultivars are grown for their bright orange flowers.



## LILY TURF

P

(*Liriope muscari*, *L. spicata*)

This lily family member is a durable evergreen with grass-like leaves which produces numerous spikes of lavender flowers in summer. Used in gardens in China as a border or in mass plantings.

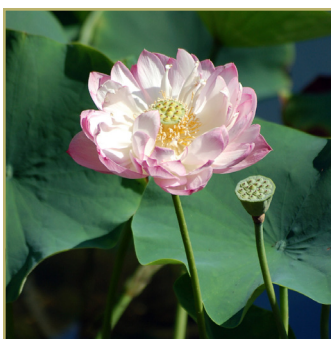


## HYPERICUM

L

(*Hypericum* 'Hidcote')

This evergreen shrub provides our landscape with bright yellow flowers throughout the summer. It is related to the 'St. John's Wort' plant that has been long used in Chinese medicine.



## WATER LOTUS

Q

(*Nelumbo* sp.)

This plant's huge circular leaves and large flowers rest high above the water. Its fragrance and graceful form has inspired Chinese artists throughout the ages. Long appreciated as a symbol of integrity, each flower bud rises from the mud and passes through murky waters to reveal an untainted, flawless bloom.

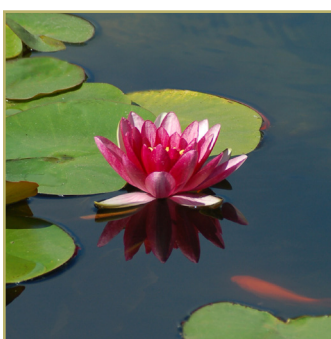


## PERSICARIA

M

(*Persicaria* 'Red Dragon')

This herbaceous perennial with deep purple foliage has delicate white flowers resembling baby's breath that emerge in summer. In its wild form, it is found in several Chinese provinces, as well as India and Nepal.



## WATER LILY

R

(*Nymphaea* sp.)

Aquatic plants — most commonly, lilies and lotus — are an important part of a traditional Chinese garden. Water lilies have somewhat heart-shaped leaves that rest flat on the water's surface with their pink and white flowers floating among them.

Do you have a question about a specific plant? Email Lan Su's Horticulture department at [info@lansugarden.org](mailto:info@lansugarden.org) for more information.