



A field guide to selected plants

JENSEN-OLSON ARBORETUM

Cover Photo *Iris germanica* 'Gracchus' (Ware, 1884)



'Gracchus' was introduced to the horticultural world in 1884 by Thomas Ware of Tottenham, England; soon after in 1885, it was awarded a First Class Certificate by the Royal Horticultural Society. With this accolade, it became widely grown across Europe. So how did this *Iris* make it to Juneau at a time when plants were not easily distributed or transported along international routes?

My speculation is that it arrived in Marie Jensen Peterson's steamer trunk when she immigrated (1890s) from Germany to Juneau with her new husband, John Peterson. *Iris* rhizomes travel well without soil for long periods of time, so it isn't out of the realm of possibility that she brought her favorite plant with her to remind her of home. Caroline Jensen, benefactor of the Arboretum, documented her gardens very well and kept many photo albums through the years. Included in one of her albums is a picture of 'Gracchus' from the early 1960s; it is annotated "old Peterson Iris."

Perhaps in cultivation at the Arboretum for now over 100 years, 'Gracchus' continues to flourish thanks to Caroline's care. It is usually made available on a limited basis at the annual plant sale allowing interested buyers to purchase a bit of horticultural history.

A Field Guide to Selected Plants of the Jensen-Olson Arboretum

Merrill Jensen

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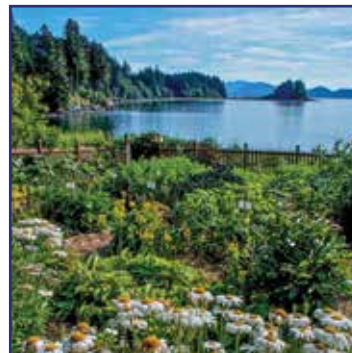
MISSION

The vision of the Arboretum is to provide the people of Juneau a place that both teaches and inspires learning in horticulture, natural sciences and landscaping – to preserve the beauty of the landscape for pure aesthetic enjoyment – to maintain the historical and cultural context of the place and its people.

– *Caroline Jensen*

TOXICITY STATEMENT ☠

Like most public gardens, the education and outreach mission of the Arboretum encompasses a wide variety of objectives. As part of this commitment, the Arboretum collection is curated to offer opportunities for identification of plants, including poisonous plants. While every care should be taken to research potential toxicity of all plants, we have included several in this reference which are known to be toxic. Those designated by ☠ are toxic in some form of contact (handling or ingesting), and some of those are fatally toxic in certain circumstances.



Introduction

The Jensen-Olson Arboretum (JOA) opened as a public garden in 2007. The history dates to 1904 when it was homesteaded by the John Peterson family. His eldest daughter, Irma, married Charlie Olson in the 1920s. They lived on the land, mining, commercial fishing and operating a mink farm. Upon their deaths in the 1960s, Irma's cousin Carl Jensen and his wife Caroline moved to the property. Caroline transformed a quintessential Alaskan homestead to the magnificent garden which became the foundation for the Arboretum. Permanently protecting the property through a conservation easement with the Southeast Alaska Land Trust, she bequeathed it to the City and Borough of Juneau to become the Jensen-Olson Arboretum.

The Arboretum boasts approximately 1,100 species and cultivars in its collection; this field guide provides a glimpse into a selection of the most interesting accessions, including many visitor favorites. It is our hope that this informative guide enhances your experience in this very special place.

While beneficial as a resource on its own, this guide is intended for use with the JOA Visitor Map which shows the garden area included in each entry. Using the guide in this way provides opportunities to observe the plant and its cultivation in situ for context.

Primroses...

Primula, commonly called primroses, were Caroline Jensen's favorite flower; her plantings of this species formed a unique and captivating foundation for the Arboretum. In the spring, thousands of plants come into bloom for a massive display of color. May is the peak month for bloom, but the floral display continues through the summer with many Sino-Himalayan species, some of which are very fragrant.

The Arboretum houses the largest documented collection of them in North America, and in 2012 was recognized as the Nationally Accredited Collection™ for the genus by the Plant Collections Network of the American Public Gardens Association.



Alpine Bells

Primula matthioli

Primulaceae

Native Range:

Alps

Size (W x H): 12" x 18"

Bloom Description & Timing:

white or dark pink; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

formerly *Cortusa matthioli*

JOA Garden Area:

throughout



Bear's Ear

Primula auricula

Primulaceae

Native Range:

Central Europe

Size (W x H): 10" x 12"

Bloom Description & Timing:

many colors; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

numerous cultivars available in commerce

JOA Garden Area:

throughout

Primroses



Bird's-eye Primrose

Primula farinosa

Primulaceae

Native Range:

Northern Europe

Size (W x H): 6"x 6"

Bloom Description & Timing:

pink; early spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

very early bloomer

JOA Garden Area:

6



'Caroline's Dorothy'

Primrose

Primula 'Caroline's Dorothy'

Primulaceae

Native Range:

Jensen-Olson Arboretum, Alaska

Size (W x H): 12"x 10"

Bloom Description & Timing:

pale yellow; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

naturally arose at the Arboretum;
Caroline Jensen selection

JOA Garden Area:

6

Primroses



'Chehalis Blue'

Primrose

Primula auricula

'Chehalis Blue'

Primulaceae

Native Range:

Garden Origin

Size (W x H): 12"x 12"

Bloom Description & Timing:

light blue with white eye; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

a very popular form of *P. auricula*

JOA Garden Area:

5



Cowslip

Primula veris ssp. *macrocalyx*

Primulaceae

Native Range:

Eurasia

Size (W x H): 12"x 18"

Bloom Description & Timing:

yellow; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

a *Primula* in Shakespeare's works

JOA Garden Area:

throughout

Primroses



'Dorothy' Primrose

Primula x pruhoniana

'Dorothy'

Primulaceae

Native Range:

Garden Origin

Size (W x H): 8" spreading mat

Bloom Description & Timing:

pale yellow; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

best planted en masse

JOA Garden Area:

throughout



Drumstick Primrose

Primula denticulata

Primulaceae

Native Range:

Himalayas

Size (W x H): 12" x 18"

Bloom Description & Timing:

lavender, white or dark pink;
spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

the most common *Primula* at the Arboretum; last count (2020) was 7400 plants

JOA Garden Area:

throughout

Primroses



'Glacier Bay' Primrose

Primula denticulata

'Glacier Bay'

Primulaceae

Native Range:

Jensen-Olson Arboretum, Alaska

Size (W x H): 12" x 18"

Bloom Description & Timing:

pale lavender; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

a selection of *P. denticulata* from the Arboretum

JOA Garden Area:

3



Himalayan Cowslip

Primula sikkimensis

Primulaceae

Native Range:

Nepal, Southwestern China

Size (W x H): 12" x 18"

Bloom Description & Timing:

bright yellow or red; summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:

fragrant

JOA Garden Area:

7

Primroses



'Irma's Gold' Primrose

Primula 'Irma's Gold'

Primulaceae

Native Range:

Jensen-Olson Arboretum, Alaska

Size (W x H): 12" x 8"

Bloom Description & Timing:

golden yellow; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

selected from some of Caroline Jensen's original plants

JOA Garden Area:

6



Japanese Primrose

Primula japonica

Primulaceae

Native Range:

Japan

Size (W x H): 12" x 12"

Bloom Description & Timing:

rich pink, pink, white or red; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

very easy to grow

JOA Garden Area:

throughout

Primroses



Japanese Primrose

Primula sieboldii

Primulaceae

Native Range:

Eastern Asia

Size (W x H): 10" x 10"

Bloom Description & Timing:

white, pink and light red; late spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

Japanese gardeners have been cultivating these since the 1600s

JOA Garden Area:

throughout



'Jay Jay' Primrose

Primula 'Jay Jay'

Primulaceae

Native Range:

Garden Origin

Size (W x H): 12" x 10"

Bloom Description & Timing:

rich maroon; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

a "jack-in-the-green"

JOA Garden Area:

9

Primroses



Mealy Primrose

Primula pulverulenta
Primulaceae

Native Range:
Southwestern China

Size (W x H): 2' x 2'

Bloom Description & Timing:
dark pink; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:
pretty silver farina (a distinguishing characteristic from *P. japonica*)

JOA Garden Area:
3



Moonlight Primrose

Primula alpicola
Primulaceae

Native Range:
Himalayas

Size (W x H): 12" x 12"

Bloom Description & Timing:
white, lavender or pale yellow;
late spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:
fragrant, multiple color forms

JOA Garden Area:
throughout

Primroses



No common name

Primula cashmeriana
Primulaceae

Native Range:
Himalayas

Size (W x H): 12" x 18"

Bloom Description & Timing:
lavender; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:
taxonomically an unresolved name

JOA Garden Area:
3



No common name

Primula secundiflora
Primulaceae

Native Range:
Sichuan and Yunnan

Size (W x H): 12" x 12"

Bloom Description & Timing:
dark pink; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:
interesting silver and black calyx

JOA Garden Area:
9

Primroses



No common name

Primula chungensis
Primulaceae

Native Range:

Sichuan and Yunnan

Size (W x H): 12" x 18"

Bloom Description & Timing:

orange; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

vigorously spreads if not monitored

JOA Garden Area:

8



No common name

Primula hoffmanniana
Primulaceae

Native Range:

Sichuan

Size (W x H): 6" spreading mat

Bloom Description & Timing:

white with pale lavender; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

ground cover

JOA Garden Area:

7

Primroses



No common name

Primula kisoana
Primulaceae

Native Range:

Japan

Size (W x H): 6" spreading mat

Bloom Description & Timing:

pink; late spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

ground cover

JOA Garden Area:

7



No common name

Primula jesoana
Primulaceae

Native Range:

Japan

Size (W x H): 10" x 8"

Bloom Description & Timing:

dark pink; late spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

Japanese forest plant

JOA Garden Area:

7

Primroses



No common name

Primula polyanthus
Primulaceae

Native Range:

Garden Origin

Size (W x H): 12" x 8"

Bloom Description & Timing:

many colors; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

numerous cultivars available in commerce

JOA Garden Area:

throughout



No common name

Primula juliae
Primulaceae

Native Range:

Caucasus Mountains

Size (W x H): 8" x 6"

Bloom Description & Timing:

dark pink; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

becoming more difficult to grow at the Arboretum due to effects of climate change

JOA Garden Area:

throughout

Primroses



No common name

Primula vulgaris
Belarina Series®
Primulaceae

Native Range:

Garden Origin

Size (W x H): 12" x 12"

Bloom Description & Timing:

many colors; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

fully double series

JOA Garden Area:

5



No common name

Primula grandis
Primulaceae

Native Range:

Caucasus Mountains

Size (W x H): 2' x 2'

Bloom Description & Timing:

yellow; late spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

unique *Primula* flower morphology; formerly classified as the monotypic genus *Sredinskya*

JOA Garden Area:

8

Primroses



No common name

Primula luteola
Primulaceae

Native Range:

Caucasus Mountains

Size (W x H): 12" x 18"

Bloom Description & Timing:

light yellow; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

from the Caucasus Mountains

JOA Garden Area:

9



No common name

Primula abschatica
Primulaceae

Native Range:

Caucasus Mountains

Size (W x H): 12" x 12"

Bloom Description & Timing:

purple with yellow eye; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

considered by some to be a subspecies of *P. vulgaris*

JOA Garden Area:

8

Primroses



No common name

Primula warshenewskiana
Primulaceae

Native Range:

Central Asia

Size (W x H): 8" x 1"

Bloom Description & Timing:

pink with white and yellow eye; early spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

introduced into cultivation from Afghanistan in the 1960s

JOA Garden Area:

8



Oxlip

Primula elatior
Primulaceae

Native Range:

Eurasia

Size (W x H): 12" x 12"

Bloom Description & Timing:

pale yellow; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

a *Primula* in Shakespeare's works

JOA Garden Area:

throughout

Primroses



Oxlip

Primula elatior ssp. *meyeri*
Primulaceae

Native Range:

Caucasus Mountains

Size (W x H): 12" x 12"

Bloom Description & Timing:

pink; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

color morph of *P. elatior*

JOA Garden Area:

throughout



Poker Primrose

Primula vialii
Primulaceae

Native Range:

Sichuan and Yunnan

Size (W x H): 12" x 24"

Bloom Description & Timing:

lavender with red "cap"; summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:

one of the most asked about
Primula at the Arboretum due to
its unusual flower morphology

JOA Garden Area:

throughout

Primroses



Rusby's Primrose

Primula rusbyi
Primulaceae

Native Range:

Southwestern North America

Size (W x H): 10" x 6"

Bloom Description & Timing:

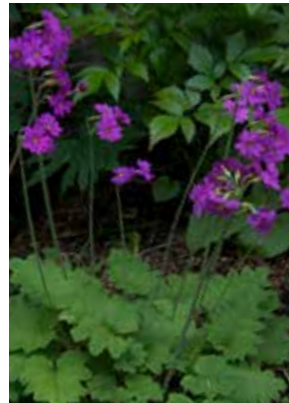
dark pink; late spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

grows in damp locations in the
mountains of the American
Southwest

JOA Garden Area:

6



Siberian Primrose

Primula cortusoides
Primulaceae

Native Range:

Eurasia

Size (W x H): 12" x 12"

Bloom Description & Timing:

pink; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

in cultivation since the late 1700s

JOA Garden Area:

7

Primroses



Silver-edged Primrose

Primula marginata
Primulaceae

Native Range:

Alps

Size (W x H): 12" x 10"

Bloom Description & Timing:

lavender; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

good for growing in rock gardens

JOA Garden Area:

9



Tibetan Cowslip

Primula florindae
Primulaceae

Native Range:

Southeastern Tibet

Size (W x H): 2' x 3'

Bloom Description & Timing:

yellow, shades of orange or reddish orange; summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:

later blooming with very fragrant flowers

JOA Garden Area:

throughout

Primroses



Woronow Primrose

Primula woronowii
Primulaceae

Native Range:

Caucasus Mountains

Size (W x H): 12" x 12"

Bloom Description & Timing:

white with yellow eye; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

endangered in its native range

JOA Garden Area:

7

Natives...

There is a range of native plant material growing at the Arboretum. The native collection is designed to assist visitors with identification of the local flora and some of its uses. Resident visitors may also learn how to integrate native plants, which require less maintenance, into their own cultivated landscapes.

Southeast Alaska is rich with native plant material; the Arboretum showcases only a slight number of species as part of its overall collection.



Chocolate Lily

Fritillaria camschatcensis
Liliaceae

Native Range:
Northern Pacific Rim

Size (W x H): 6" x 18"

Bloom Description & Timing:
dark brown through greenish yellow; early summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:
used as a food source by indigenous peoples

JOA Garden Area:
9



Devil's Club

Oplopanax horridus
Araliaceae

Native Range:
Pacific Northwest

Size (W x H): up to 10' x 10'

Bloom Description & Timing:
densely-packed, greenish; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:
used medicinally by indigenous peoples

JOA Garden Area:
throughout

Natives



False Azalea

Rhododendron menziesii
Ericaceae

Native Range:
Western North America

Size (W x H): up to 10' x 10'

Bloom Description & Timing:
pale pink, bell-shaped; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:
forest understory plant

JOA Garden Area:
3



Labrador Tea

Rhododendron groenlandicum
Ericaceae

Native Range:
Northern North America, Greenland

Size (W x H): 4' x 2'

Bloom Description & Timing:
white; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:
used in making herbal tea

JOA Garden Area:
6

Natives



Lady Fern

Athyrium filix-femina
Athyriaceae

Native Range:
Northern Temperate Regions

Size (W x H): 3" x 3"

Bloom Description & Timing:
not applicable

Noteworthy Characteristics:
used ornamentally

JOA Garden Area:
throughout



Licorice Fern

Polypodium glycyrrhiza
Polypodiaceae

Native Range:
Western North America

Size (W x H): 1.5' x 1.5'

Bloom Description & Timing:
not applicable

Noteworthy Characteristics:
roots taste like licorice

JOA Garden Area:
6

Natives



Marsh Marigold

Caltha palustris
Ranunculaceae

Native Range:
Northern Temperate Regions

Size (W x H): 1.5' x 1.5'

Bloom Description & Timing:
yellow; early spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:
scientific name translates to
"marsh-loving"

JOA Garden Area:
3



Mountain Avens

Dryas octopetala
Rosaceae

Native Range:
Circumpolar

Size (W x H): 2' x 6"

Bloom Description & Timing:
white; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:
heliotropic flower

JOA Garden Area:
6

Natives



Oak Fern

Gymnocarpium dryopteris
Cystopteridaceae

Native Range:
Northern Temperate Regions

Size (W x H): up to 1.5' x 2'

Bloom Description & Timing:
not applicable

Noteworthy Characteristics:
forest understory plant

JOA Garden Area:
9



Rattlesnake Plantain

Goodyera oblongifolia
Orchidaceae

Native Range:
Northern North America

Size (W x H): 6" x 10"

Bloom Description & Timing:
greenish-white; summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:
one of Southeast Alaska's native
orchids

JOA Garden Area:
3

Natives



Red Huckleberry

Vaccinium parvifolium
Ericaceae

Native Range:
Western North America

Size (W x H): 8' x 8'

Bloom Description & Timing:
pinkish-white, bell-shaped
flowers; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:
used as a food source by
indigenous peoples

JOA Garden Area:
3



Salmonberry

Rubus spectabilis
Rosaceae

Native Range:
Western North America

Size (W x H): 5' x 5'

Bloom Description & Timing:
pink; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:
edible fruit

JOA Garden Area:
1

Natives



Thimbleberry

Rubus parviflorus
Rosaceae

Native Range:
Temperate North America

Size (W x H): forms thickets up to
6' x 7'

Bloom Description & Timing:
white; late spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:
edible fruit

JOA Garden Area:
throughout



Western Bog Laurel

Kalmia microphylla
ssp. *occidentalis*
Ericaceae

Native Range:
North America

Size (W x H): 2' x 2'

Bloom Description & Timing:
pink; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:
found in peat bogs

JOA Garden Area:
6
☠

Natives



Wild Iris

Iris setosa

Iridaceae

Native Range:

Northern Temperate Regions

Size (W x H): 2' x 2'

Bloom Description & Timing:

shades of bluish-purple; summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:

all parts are toxic

JOA Garden Area:

3



Yellowdot Saxifrage

Saxifraga bronchialis

Saxifragaceae

Native Range:

Northern North America, Greenland

Size (W x H): 2' x 6"

Bloom Description & Timing:

pale yellow with darker yellow spots; summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:

evergreen ground cover

JOA Garden Area:

6

Oddities...

Much of the “background” flora at the Arboretum consists of bryophytes (the mosses and liverworts) and lichen. Many people mistakenly believe that lichen which hang or grow on the trees in Southeast Alaska are harmful to the tree. Lichen are self-sustaining, symbiotic organisms residing in the background and cause no harm to the trees. The trailing lichen on our trees is also often mistaken for Spanish Moss, which in fact is not a true moss, but rather a tropical plant related to pineapple.

One of the few North American, public botanical institutions with a coastal location, the Arboretum boasts a wide range of marine plant life; of those, this guide highlights *Fucus* (commonly called bladderwrack) which is the most common of these marine plants.

Oddities



Bladder Wrack

Fucus vesiculosus
Fucales

Native Range:
Northern Hemisphere

Size (W x H): 6" x 18"

Noteworthy Characteristics:
used medicinally by indigenous peoples

JOA Garden Area:
beach



Bone Lichen

Hypogymnia sp.
Parmeliaceae

Native Range:
Northern Hemisphere

Size (W x H): variable

Noteworthy Characteristics:
air quality indicator; cyanolichen
able to nitrogen-fix

JOA Garden Area:
2

Oddities



Creeping Buttercup

Ranunculus repens
Ranunculaceae

Native Range:
Northern Hemisphere

Size (W x H): variable

Noteworthy Characteristics:
invasive species that causes
habitat degradation

JOA Garden Area:
throughout



Oddities



Field Horsetail

Equisetum arvense
Equisetaceae

Native Range:
Northern Hemisphere

Size (W x H): variable

Noteworthy Characteristics:
medicinal uses

JOA Garden Area:
throughout



Faroe Dandelion

Taraxacum faeroense
Asteraceae

Native Range:
Faroe Islands

Size (W x H): variable

Noteworthy Characteristics:
the Arboretum is one of only four
public gardens worldwide growing
this plant

JOA Garden Area:
6



Horsehair Lichen

Bryoria sp.
Parmeliaceae

Native Range:
Temperate North America, Europe

Size (W x H): variable

Noteworthy Characteristics:
air quality indicator;
cyanolichen able to nitrogen-fix

JOA Garden Area:
2

Oddities



Juniper Hair Cap Moss

Polytrichum juniperinum
Polytrichaceae

Native Range:

Worldwide

Size (W x H): variable

Noteworthy Characteristics:

medicinal uses

JOA Garden Area:

1



Lung Lichen

Lobaria pulmonaria
Lobariaceae

Native Range:

Northern Hemisphere

Size (W x H): variable

Noteworthy Characteristics:

air quality indicator; cyanolichen
able to nitrogen-fix

JOA Garden Area:

7

Oddities



Methuselah's Beard Lichen

Usnea longissima
Parmeliaceae

Native Range:

Temperate North America, Europe

Size (W x H): variable

Noteworthy Characteristics:

air quality indicator; cyanolichen
able to nitrogen-fix

JOA Garden Area:

2



Tree Ruffle Liverwort

Bryoria sp.
Parmeliaceae

Native Range:

Northern Temperate Regions

Size (W x H): variable

Noteworthy Characteristics:

widespread throughout its range

JOA Garden Area:

1



Witch's Hair Lichen

Alectoria sarmentosa
Parmeliaceae

Native Range:

Temperate North America, Europe

Size (W x H): variable

Noteworthy Characteristics:

air quality indicator; cyanolichen
able to nitrogen-fix

JOA Garden Area:

2

Perennials...

Visitors to the Arboretum will find something in bloom from early March through early October with a large variety of perennials. The beds are planted to display sequential bloom throughout Southeast Alaska's gardening season. Highlights include: very early spring blooming bulbs (some of which emerge and bloom through blankets of snow); an array of colorful primroses in mid-spring; the highly-acclaimed *Meconopsis* (commonly called Himalayan blue poppies); brilliantly colored and sized *Peonies*; several historic *Iris*; a large selection of *Hostas*; and a growing collection of late blooming *Helenium* (commonly called Sneezeweed).

Perennials are the "workhorses" of the garden providing robust structure and color year after year.

Perennials



Alpine Snowbells

Soldinella carpatica
Primulaceae

Native Range:

Carpathian Mountains

Size (W x H): 1' x 1'

Bloom Description & Timing:

lavender; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

a close primrose cousin whose name means "little coins" in Italian

JOA Garden Area:

7



Astilbe

Astilbe sp.
Saxifragaceae

Native Range:

Northern Temperate Regions

Size (W x H): variable

Bloom Description & Timing:

lavender, pink, white and red; late summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:

long-lived; plants in front of manager's residence were planted by Caroline Jensen in the late 1960s

JOA Garden Area:

throughout

Perennials



'Beth Evans' Fumewort

Corydalis solida 'Beth Evans'
Papaveraceae

Native Range:

Garden Origin

Size (W x H): 10" x 10"

Bloom Description & Timing:

dark pink; early spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

summer dormant

JOA Garden Area:

throughout



Black Iris

Iris chrysographes
Iridaceae

Native Range:

China

Size (W x H): 2' x 2'

Bloom Description & Timing:

dark purple (almost black);
summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:

striking, novel-colored iris

JOA Garden Area:

5



Perennials



Chinese Peony

Paeonia lactiflora
Paeoniaceae

Native Range:

Asia

Size (W x H): 3' x 3'

Bloom Description & Timing:

shades of red, pink, white, or coral;
early summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:

grown in Chinese gardens since
the 7th century

JOA Garden Area:

throughout



Cushion Spurge

Euphorbia polychroma
Saxifragaceae

Native Range:

Eurasia

Size (W x H): 1.5' x 1.5'

Bloom Description & Timing:

bright yellow; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

in the same family as poinsettia

JOA Garden Area:

throughout



Perennials



Foxglove

Digitalis purpurea
Plantaginaceae

Native Range:

Europe

Size (W x H): 18" x up to 7'

Bloom Description & Timing:

shades of pink, purple or white;
summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:

source of cardiac medicine

JOA Garden Area:

throughout



Globe Flower

Trollius sp.
Ranunculaceae

Native Range:

Garden Origin

Size (W x H): 2' x 2'

Bloom Description & Timing:

shades of yellow; spring to
summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:

5 species and cultivars in the
Arboretum's collection; reliable
spring color

JOA Garden Area:

6

Perennials



Jack-in-the-pulpit

Arisaema triphyllum
Araceae

Native Range:

Eastern North America

Size (W x H): 1' x 1'

Bloom Description & Timing:

greenish-white; summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:

jack-in-the-pulpit refers to flower
morphology

JOA Garden Area:

9



Japanese Butterbur

Petasites japonicus
var. *giganteus*
Asteraceae

Native Range:

Japan, Korea, China

Size (W x H): 3' x 6'

Bloom Description & Timing:

whitish; very early spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

very large-leaved, tropical looking
plant with edible leaf stalks in
early spring; flowers often emerge
through snow cover

JOA Garden Area:

1

Perennials



Japanese Wood Poppy

Glaucidium palmatum
Ranunculaceae

Native Range:

Japan

Size (W x H): 2'x 2'

Bloom Description & Timing:

lavender; early summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:

good plant for cool, shady areas

JOA Garden Area:

7



'Leonardo Compact' Leopard's Bane

Doronicum orientale
'Leonardo Compact'
Asteraceae

Native Range:

Garden Origin

Size (W x H): 2'x 2'

Bloom Description & Timing:

yellow; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

a compact form of Leopard's Bane

JOA Garden Area:

5

Perennials



'Lingholm' Himalayan Blue Poppy

Meconopsis 'Lingholm'
Papaveraceae

Native Range:

Garden Origin

Size (W x H): 3'x 3.5'

Bloom Description & Timing:

intense blue; June

Noteworthy Characteristics:

climatic-specific cultivation requirements; requires cool, damp summers

JOA Garden Area:

throughout



Mayapple

Podophyllum peltatum
Berberidaceae

Native Range:

Eastern North America

Size (W x H): 2'x 2'

Bloom Description & Timing:

white; late spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

striking fruits used for jams and jellies

JOA Garden Area:

2

Perennials



Meadow Rue

Thalictrum sp.
Ranunculaceae

Native Range:

Northern Temperate Regions

Size (W x H): variable

Bloom Description & Timing:
white, lavender or yellow; summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:
numerous species at the Arboretum
from 1" to 11' tall (yes, really!)

JOA Garden Area:
throughout



Monkshood

Aconitum sp.
Ranunculaceae

Native Range:

Northern Temperate Regions

Size (W x H): 2' x up to 4'

Bloom Description & Timing:
purple, dark blue or pale yellow;
late summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:
fatally toxic; always wear gloves
while working with this plant

JOA Garden Area:
throughout



Perennials



Ornamental Rhubarb

Rheum palmatum
var. *tanguticum*
Polygonaceae

Native Range:

Western China

Size (W x H): 8' x 8'

Bloom Description & Timing:
pinkish-white; summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:
used in traditional Chinese
medicine; not edible

JOA Garden Area:
1, 9



'Pagoda' Fawn Lily

Erythronium 'Pagoda'
Liliaceae

Native Range:

Garden Origin

Size (W x H): 12" x 12"

Bloom Description & Timing:
yellow; mid-spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:
stunning, mottled foliage which
transitions to summer dormancy

JOA Garden Area:
3

Perennials



Pasque Flower

Pulsatilla vulgaris
Ranunculaceae

Native Range:

Eurasia

Size (W x H): 1' x 1'

Bloom Description & Timing:

purple; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

striking, feathery seed heads

JOA Garden Area:

6



Pink Turtlehead

Chelone lyonii
Plantaginaceae

Native Range:

Southeastern United States

Size (W x H): 3' x 3'

Bloom Description & Timing:

pink; late summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:

one of the season's last plants to bloom at the Arboretum

JOA Garden Area:

9

Perennials



Rodgersia

Rodgersia sp.
Saxifragaceae

Native Range:

Southwestern China

Size (W x H): 3' x 3'

Bloom Description & Timing:

pinkish-white; summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:

bold, almost tropical texture
desirable for northern gardens

JOA Garden Area:

throughout



Shasta Daisy

Leucanthemum x superbum
Asteraceae

Native Range:

Garden Origin

Size (W x H): 3' x up to 4'

Bloom Description & Timing:

white with yellow centers;
summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:

developed by noted plant breeder,
Luther Burbank

JOA Garden Area:

throughout

Perennials



Shooting Star

Primula (syn. *Dodecatheon*)
Primulaceae

Native Range:
North America

Size (W x H): 1' x 2'

Bloom Description & Timing:
pink or white; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:
recent taxonomic changes reclassified this genus to *Primula*; multiple species at the Arboretum

JOA Garden Area:
6



Snake's Head Fritillary

Fritillaria meleagris
Liliaceae

Native Range:
Europe

Size (W x H): 1' x 1'

Bloom Description & Timing:
maroon checkered with white or white; early spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:
a visitor favorite; European cousin of the Northern Pacific Rim chocolate lily

JOA Garden Area:
throughout

Perennials



Sneezeweed

Helenium autumnale
Asteraceae

Native Range:
North America

Size (W x H): 4' x 3'

Bloom Description & Timing:
Bright yellow flowers in late August - October

Noteworthy Characteristics:
common name comes from the historic use of its dried, powdered leaves and flowers for snuff

JOA Garden Area:
5
☠



Tree Peony

Paeonia delavayi var. *lutea*
Paeoniaceae

Native Range:
China

Size (W x H): 3' x 5'

Bloom Description & Timing:
yellow, orange or reddish; early summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:
native habitat is open woodlands up to 11,000' in the Sino-Himalayan region

JOA Garden Area:
4
☠

Perennials



Wake Robin

Trillium erectum
Melanthiaceae

Native Range:

Eastern North America

Size (W x H): 3' x 2'

Bloom Description & Timing:

dark maroon; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

carrion-scented flowers attract flies for pollination

JOA Garden Area:

9



White Corydalis

Corydalis ochroleuca
Papaveraceae

Native Range:

Southern Europe

Size (W x H): 18" x 1'

Bloom Description & Timing:

white with yellow; early summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:

can self-sow to form colonies

JOA Garden Area:

9

Perennials



Windflower

Anemone sp.
Ranunculaceae

Native Range:

Northern Temperate Regions

Size (W x H): 1' x 1'

Bloom Description & Timing:

white or lavender; spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

excellent spring color for a woodland area

JOA Garden Area:

throughout



Shrubs & Vines...

Shrubs and vines work in concert with trees to form the foundation of the Arboretum's woody plant material.

Many of the Arboretum's shrubs, such as *Syringa* (commonly called lilac) and *Spiraea* contribute to the seasonal floral display, while the diversity in *Physocarpus* (commonly called ninebark) add a wide range of foliage color and shape to the summer landscape. Due to climatic factors, there are just a few vines that will robustly grow in Southeast Alaska.



Arrowwood Viburnum

Viburnum dentatum
Adoxaceae

Native Range:

Eastern North America

Size (W x H): 8' x 5'

Bloom Description & Timing:

white; early summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:

wood used as arrow shafts by indigenous peoples

JOA Garden Area:

2



'Aureus' Hops

Humulus lupulus 'Aureus'
Cannabaceae

Native Range:

Garden Origin

Size (W x H): 10' x 20'

Bloom Description & Timing:

pale green; late summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:

flowers used to flavor beer

JOA Garden Area:

5

Shrubs & Vines



Bridal Wreath Spiraea

Spiraea prunifolia
Rosaceae

Native Range:

Eastern Asia

Size (W x H): 8' x 5'

Bloom Description & Timing:

white; summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:

arching branches are covered with white flowers in summer

JOA Garden Area:

2



Fountain Bamboo

Fargesia nitida
Poaceae

Native Range:

Sichuan

Size (W x H): 8' x 8'

Bloom Description & Timing:

not applicable

Noteworthy Characteristics:

hardy bamboo which can be successfully grown in Alaska

JOA Garden Area:

2

Shrubs & Vines



Hardy Kiwi

Actinidia kolomikta
Actinidiaceae

Native Range:

Eastern Asia

Size (W x H): 10' x 20'

Bloom Description & Timing:

white; summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:

unusual, naturally-occurring pink and white variegation in summer

JOA Garden Area:

4



Ninebark

Physocarpus opulifolius
Rosaceae

Native Range:

Eastern North America

Size (W x H): 6' x 6'

Bloom Description & Timing:

white; summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:

foliage colors vary with cultivar

JOA Garden Area:

throughout

Shrubs & Vines



Peking Cotoneaster

Cotoneaster acutifolius
Rosaceae

Native Range:

Eastern Asia

Size (W x H): 6' x 6'

Bloom Description & Timing:

white; summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:

striking fall color; dry, pasty berries which are almost inedible

JOA Garden Area:

throughout



'Red Majestic' Contorted Filbert

Corylus avellana
'Red Majestic'
Betulaceae

Native Range:

Garden Origin

Size (W x H): 8' x 6'

Bloom Description & Timing:

inconspicuous

Noteworthy Characteristics:

interesting, twisted branching

JOA Garden Area:

2

Shrubs & Vines



'Roseum Elegans' Rhododendron

Rhododendron catawbiense
'Roseum Elegans'
Ericaceae

Native Range:

Garden Origin

Size (W x H): 10' x 8'

Bloom Description & Timing:

pink; late spring

Noteworthy Characteristics:

historic planting by Caroline Jensen

JOA Garden Area:

2

☒



'Sem' Ural False Spirea

Sorbaria sorbifolia 'Sem'
Rosaceae

Native Range:

Garden Origin

Size (W x H): 4' x 4'

Bloom Description & Timing:

white; early summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:

spring growth emerges multi-colored

JOA Garden Area:

throughout

Shrubs & Vines



Siberian Cypress

Microbiota decussata
Cupressaceae

Native Range:
Russian Far East

Size (W x H): 8' x 18"

Bloom Description & Timing:
inconspicuous

Noteworthy Characteristics:
good evergreen groundcover

JOA Garden Area:
3



'Sitka' Rose

Rosa rugosa 'Sitka'
Rosaceae

Native Range:
Eastern Asia

Size (W x H): forms thickets up to 6' x 7'

Bloom Description & Timing:
pink; summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:
robust cultivar for Southeast Alaska cultivation

JOA Garden Area:
6

Shrubs & Vines



'Stolwijk Gold' Alpine Clematis

Clematis alpina
'Stolwijk Gold'
Ranunculaceae

Native Range:
Garden Origin

Size (W x H): 4' x 8'

Bloom Description & Timing:
blue; summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:
blue flowers contrast with the golden foliage

JOA Garden Area:
9
☠



Swiss Mountain Pine

Pinus mugo
Pinaceae

Native Range:
Central Europe

Size (W x H): up to 15' x 20'

Bloom Description & Timing:
inconspicuous

Noteworthy Characteristics:
sturdy conifer for the landscape

JOA Garden Area:
2

Shrubs & Vines



Variegated Red Twig Dogwood

Cornus alba 'Elegantissima'
Cornaceae

Native Range:
Garden Origin

Size (W x H): 7' x 7'

Bloom Description & Timing:
white; summer

Noteworthy Characteristics:
variegated foliage gives interest to
the landscape

JOA Garden Area:
9



Weeping European Larch

Larix decidua 'Pendula'
Pinaceae

Native Range:
Garden Origin

Size (W x H): variable

Bloom Description & Timing:
inconspicuous

Noteworthy Characteristics:
unusual form of Larch

JOA Garden Area:
1

Shrubs & Vines



Yew

Taxus x media
Taxaceae

Native Range:
Garden Origin

Size (W x H): 10' x 4'

Bloom Description & Timing:
inconspicuous

Noteworthy Characteristics:
used medicinally for cancer
treatments

JOA Garden Area:
9
☠

Trees...

An arboretum serves as a botanical garden and living museum with much of its collection consisting of perennial, woody plant material.

Since the founding of the Jensen-Olson Arboretum in 2007, we have made a concerted effort to expand the number and diversity of trees for visitors to observe and study. One particular highlight of this increase to the Arboretum's collection is the expansion of trees which provide notable autumn foliage displays. Additionally, curatorial practices for this collection have shifted to non-bear-attracting species which simultaneously grow well in Southeast Alaska – a goal worthy of our efforts.

Trees



American Larch

Larix laricina

Pinaceae

Native Range:

Northern North America

Height: 50'

Noteworthy Characteristics:

deciduous conifer; needles turn lemon yellow in fall before dropping; small cones in spring are garnet red and striking

JOA Garden Area:

2



'Autumn Blaze' Maple

Acer x freemanii 'Jeffersred'

Sapindaceae

Native Range:

Garden Origin

Height: 40'

Noteworthy Characteristics:

hybrid between Silver and Red Maple

JOA Garden Area:

8

Trees



Birchbark Cherry

Prunus serrula
Rosaceae

Native Range:
Eastern Asia

Height: 25'

Noteworthy Characteristics:
beautiful, cinnamon-colored
exfoliating bark

JOA Garden Area:

3



'Bloodgood' Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum 'Bloodgood'
Sapindaceae

Native Range:
Garden Origin

Height: 15'

Noteworthy Characteristics:
fire-engine red fall color

JOA Garden Area:

7

Trees



'Chief Joseph' Lodgepole Pine

Pinus contorta ssp. *latifolia*
Pinaceae

Native Range:
Wallowa Mountains, Oregon

Height: 20'

Noteworthy Characteristics:
cultivar of Lodgepole Pine; turns
yellow in winter; discovered in
the Wallows

JOA Garden Area:

5



Chokecherry

Prunus virginiana
Rosaceae

Native Range:
North America

Height: 25'

Noteworthy Characteristics:
listed as invasive in Alaska

JOA Garden Area:

8



Trees



Copper Beech

Fagus sylvatica

(Atropurpurea Group)

Fagaceae

Native Range:

Europe

Height: 40'

Noteworthy Characteristics:

deep purple-leaved form of European Beech

JOA Garden Area:

5



'Crimson Cloud'

Hawthorn

Crataegus laevigata

'Crimson Cloud'

Rosaceae

Native Range:

Garden Origin

Height: 30'

Noteworthy Characteristics:

new variety; bred for leaf disease resistance

JOA Garden Area:

2

Trees



Douglas Maple

Acer glabrum

Sapindaceae

Native Range:

Western North America

Height: 25'

Noteworthy Characteristics:

West Coast native Maple

JOA Garden Area:

3



Fernleaf Full Moon Maple

Acer japonicum

Sapindaceae

Native Range:

Japan

Height: 15'

Noteworthy Characteristics:

beautiful fall color; one of the best Maples at Arboretum for fall color

JOA Garden Area:

5

Trees



Flowering Cherry

Prunus sp.
Rosaceae

Native Range:

Asia

Height: 30'

Noteworthy Characteristics:

historic planting by Caroline Jensen; cultivar unknown

JOA Garden Area:

8



Full Moon Maple

Acer shirasawanum
'Aureum'
Sapindaceae

Native Range:

Garden Origin

Height: 10'

Noteworthy Characteristics:

very slow-growing cultivar of Full Moon Maple

JOA Garden Area:

2

Trees



Golden Chain Tree

Laburnum x watereri 'Vossii'
Fabaceae

Native Range:

Garden Origin

Height: 25'

Noteworthy Characteristics:

striking, pendulous racemes of lemon yellow flowers in late spring

JOA Garden Area:

3



Grand Apple

Malus domestica
Rosaceae

Native Range:

Garden Origin

Height: 30'

Noteworthy Characteristics:

genetically unique specimen probably grown from seed by the Peterson family

JOA Garden Area:

2

Trees



Hiba Arborvitae

Thujaopsis dolabrata
Pinaceae

Native Range:

Japan

Height: 25'

Noteworthy Characteristics:

interesting conifer from the forests of Japan

JOA Garden Area:

5



Himalayan Birch

Betula utilis var. *jacquemontii*
Betulaceae

Native Range:

Himalayas

Height: 40'

Noteworthy Characteristics:

beautiful, white, exfoliating bark

JOA Garden Area:

9

Trees



Icelandic Birch

Betula pubescens
Betulaceae

Native Range:

Northern Europe

Height: 30'

Noteworthy Characteristics:

rarely-grown tree in North America

JOA Garden Area:

9



Japanese White Pine

Pinus parviflora
(Glauca Group)
Pinaceae

Native Range:

Japan, Korea

Height: 30'

Noteworthy Characteristics:

popular landscape plant

JOA Garden Area:

2

Trees



Katsura Tree

Cercidiphyllum japonicum
Cercidiphyllaceae

Native Range:

Japan, China

Height: 40'

Noteworthy Characteristics:

monotypic genus; foliage looks like Redbud, hence the family designation

JOA Garden Area:

7



Limber Pine

Pinus flexilis
'Vanderwolf's Pyramid'
Pinaceae

Native Range:

Garden Origin

Height: 30'

Noteworthy Characteristics:

named for its very flexible branches

JOA Garden Area:

2

Trees



Littleleaf Linden

Tilia cordata
Malvaceae

Native Range:

Europe

Height: 40'

Noteworthy Characteristics:

has fragrant, pale yellow flowers in summer

JOA Garden Area:

9



Mountain Ash

Sorbus aucuparia
Rosaceae

Native Range:

Western Asia, Europe

Height: 45'

Noteworthy Characteristics:

nice fall color; has become a management concern because its fruit attracts bears to the Arboretum in fall

JOA Garden Area:

throughout

Trees



Mountain Hemlock

Tsuga mertensiana
Pinaceae

Native Range:
Western North America

Height: 25'

Noteworthy Characteristics:
Southeast Alaska native

JOA Garden Area:
6



Norway Maple

Acer platanoides
Sapindaceae

Native Range:
Europe

Height: 50'

Noteworthy Characteristics:
could become invasive in Alaska
with climate change

JOA Garden Area:
7

Trees



Norway Spruce

Picea abies
Pinaceae

Native Range:
Europe

Height: 100'

Noteworthy Characteristics:
a fast-growing Spruce used for
timber products and paper
production in Europe

JOA Garden Area:
7



'Pacific Sunset' Maple

Acer truncatum x *A.*
platanoides 'Warrenred'
Sapindaceae

Native Range:
Garden Origin

Height: 40'

Noteworthy Characteristics:
striking fall color

JOA Garden Area:
2

Trees



Paperbark Maple

Acer griseum
Sapindaceae

Native Range:
Central China

Height: 25'

Noteworthy Characteristics:
beautiful, cinnamon-colored,
exfoliating bark

JOA Garden Area:
2



'Paul's Scarlet' Hawthorn

Crataegus laevigata
'Paul's Scarlet'
Rosaceae

Native Range:
Garden Origin

Height: 30'

Noteworthy Characteristics:
old cultivar prone to leaf diseases

JOA Garden Area:
3

Trees



Pere David's Maple

Acer davidii
Sapindaceae

Native Range:
China

Height: 30'

Noteworthy Characteristics:
often called Snakebark Maple for
its resemblance to a snake's skin

JOA Garden Area:
2



Red Alder

Alnus rubra
Betulaceae

Native Range:
Western North America

Height: 40'

Noteworthy Characteristics:
used for smoking meats

JOA Garden Area:
3

Trees



Red Maple

Acer rubrum
Sapindaceae

Native Range:
Eastern North America

Height: 40'

Noteworthy Characteristics:
striking reddish-orange fall color

JOA Garden Area:
6



Ribbonleaf Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum 'Atrolinere'
Sapindaceae

Native Range:
Garden Origin

Height: 8'

Noteworthy Characteristics:
beautiful, finely-textured, red foliage

JOA Garden Area:
2

Trees



'Royal Red' Maple

Acer platanoides 'Royal Red'
Sapindaceae

Native Range:
Garden Origin

Height: 40'

Noteworthy Characteristics:
red-leafed Norway Maple

JOA Garden Area:
8



Shore Pine

Pinus contorta ssp. contorta
Pinaceae

Native Range:
Western North America

Height: 40'

Noteworthy Characteristics:
can be found in muskeg areas around Southeast Alaska

JOA Garden Area:
1

Trees



'Silberlocke' Korean Fir

Abies koreana 'Silberlocke'
Pinaceae

Native Range:

Garden Origin

Height: 25'

Noteworthy Characteristics:
interesting, upright, purple-colored
cones

JOA Garden Area:

5



'Sister Ghost'

Japanese Maple

Acer palmatum 'Sister Ghost'
Sapindaceae

Native Range:

Garden Origin

Height: 4'

Noteworthy Characteristics:
almost white foliage

JOA Garden Area:

7

Trees



Sitka Spruce

Picea sitchensis
Pinaceae

Native Range:

Coastal Western North America

Height: up to 200'

Noteworthy Characteristics:
wood is used in guitar making

JOA Garden Area:

throughout



Vine Maple

Acer circinatum
Sapindaceae

Native Range:

Western North America

Height: 20'

Noteworthy Characteristics:
West Coast native Maple

JOA Garden Area:

6



Western Hemlock

Tsuga heterophylla
Pinaceae

Native Range:

Mountains of Western North America

Height: up to 200'

Noteworthy Characteristics:

important timber products tree

JOA Garden Area:

throughout



Yellow Birch

Betula alleghaniensis
Betulaceae

Native Range:

Eastern North America

Height: 40'

Noteworthy Characteristics:

sapwood smells like wintergreen

JOA Garden Area:

6



Garden Areas

- 1 Entry Plaza
- 2 Rhododendron Corridor
- 3 Native Beds
- 4 Veggie Garden
- 5 The Word Garden
- 6 The Rolling Lawn
- 7 Chilkats View
- 8 Irma's Landing
- 9 Birch Lane

Garden Features

- A Visitor Panel
- B Entry Arch
- C Gardeners' Shed
- D Manager's Residence
- E Glass House
- F Garage/Future Classroom Building
- G Chilkats View Shelter
- H Pt. Caroline Trailhead
- I Information Kiosk



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Our Partners





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