



Entry Garden

Extending an exuberant welcome to the Arboretum, this garden overflows with seasonal color.

It offers inspiring examples of plant combinations and selections that visitors can try in their own gardens.



JCRaulston Arboretum

AT NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Many of these plants will work fabulously in seasonal containers. According to Steve Silk, a contributing editor for *Fine Gardening* magazine, a well-designed container includes a "Thriller," along with "Fillers" and "Spillers." The Thriller is the eye-catching specimen, while Fillers take up space without distracting from the Thriller, and Spillers flow over the edges of the container. Look for these examples in the Entry Garden.

Thrillers:

- Alpinia zerumbet* 'Variegated Shell Ginger' (variegated ginger)
- Canna* 'Constitution', 'Australia' (canna lily)
- Colocasia esculenta* cultivars (elephant ear)
- Crinum asiaticum* var. *procerum* f. *splendens* (purple-leaf crinum)
- Musa* sp. (banana)
- Pennisetum setaceum* 'Burgundy Giant' (giant burgundy fountain grass)
- Phormium tenax* 'Atropurpureum' (purple New Zealand flax)

Fillers:

- Alternanthera ficoidea* 'Golden Threads', 'Red Threads' (Joseph's coat)
- Lantana* cultivars
- Pentas lanceolata* cultivars
- Salvia splendens* cultivars (Van Houtte salvia)
- Solenostemon* 'Amazon', 'Crimson Velvet', 'Diablo', 'Gold Brocade' (sun coleus)
- Stachytarpheta mutabilis* 'Bright Eyes' and 'Coral' (smuggler's vervain)

Spillers:

- Abutilon megapotamicum* 'Variegatum' (trailing parlor maple)
- Cuphea glutinosa* (sticky waxweed)
- Ipomoea batatas* cultivars (ornamental sweet potato)
- Iresine herbstii* 'Purple Lady' (beefsteak plant)
- Petunia integrifolia*
- Solenostemon* 'Red Trailing Queen', 'Trailing Salamander', 'India Frills' (sun coleus)



Interesting planting compositions result not only from combining colors, but also from contrasting textures. Plants with large coarse leaves have a bold texture and their presence in the garden causes the space to seem smaller. Leaves that are small or thinly dissected have a fine texture and can make a space appear to be larger than it is. The combination of bold and fine textures creates high-impact visual interest in the garden; providing a transition of medium-textured plants softens the contrast.

Fine-Textured Foliage:

- Abutilon megapotamicum* 'Little Imp' (flowering maple)
- Alternanthera ficoidea* 'Golden Threads', 'Red Threads'* (Joseph's coat)
- Cuphea cyanea* (cigar plant)
- Impatiens repens* (creeping jewelweed)
- Oxalis spiralis* 'Aureus' (golden false clover)

Bold-Textured Foliage:

- Brugmansia* 'Sunset' (angel's trumpet)
- Canna* 'Australia', 'Constitution' (canna lily)
- Ensete ventricosum* 'Maurelii' (purple Abyssinian banana) & other bananas
- Ricinus communis* 'Carmencita' (castor-oil plant)
- Salvia madrensis* 'Red Neck Girl' (forsythia sage)

Since they don't have much time to establish their roots, seasonal plantings are especially susceptible to extreme heat and dry conditions. Plants that are tolerant of these conditions will perform well and require little care in containers and raised planters. You'll find the following examples in the Entry Garden.

Heat and Drought Tolerant Plants:

- Alternanthera ficoidea* 'Golden Threads', 'Red Threads' (Joseph's coat)
- Cuphea cyanea* (cigar plant)
- Duranta erecta* 'Aurea' (gold-leaf skyflower)
- Duranta erecta* 'Golden Edge' (variegated golden dewdrop)
- Euphorbia tirucalli* 'Rosea' (firesticks pencil cactus)
- Hamelia patens* (common firebush)*
- Hibiscus acetosella* 'Jungle Red' (false roselle)*
- Ipomoea batatas* cultivars (ornamental sweet potato)
- Lantana* hybrid cultivars (lantana)
- Pentas lanceolata* cultivars (Egyptian star-cluster)
- Ricinus communis* 'Carmencita' (castor-oil plant)
- Senna didymobotrya* (African wild sensitive plant)
- Solanum quitoense* thornless selection (bed of nails)*
- Stachytarpheta mutabilis* 'Bright Eyes' and 'Coral' (smuggler's vervain)



Plants that appeal to many senses, not just to sight, enhance the garden experience. Fragrant flowers and foliage, fuzzy leaves, and rustling grasses can be found in these plantings. In your own garden, don't leave out the sense of taste, but please do not eat anything in the Entry Garden, since some of these plants are poisonous to humans when ingested.

Plants that Smell Nice:

- Agastache* 'Summer Breeze' (anise hyssop)
- Brugmansia suaveolens* and cultivar 'Sunset' (angel's trumpet)
- Hedychium* 'Elizabeth' (hardy ginger-lily)
- Mirabilis* 'Frank', 'Salmon' (four o'clock)

Plants that Feel Nice:

- Acalypha hispida* (chenille plant)
- Gynura* sp. (passion plant)*
- Solanum quitoense* thornless selection (bed of nails)

Plants that Sound Nice:

- Pennisetum setaceum* 'Burgundy Giant' (giant burgundy fountain grass)*



* Plants pictured in the brochure from 2004 planting may not be included in 2005 planting



- ◆ The Entry Garden overflows with more than 100 different tender perennials, mostly natives of the tropics. Many of these plants are appreciated for their color throughout the season, especially the numerous cultivars of coleus. Be sure to enjoy this garden all summer long, since most of these plants will perish after the first frost.
- ◆ Thanks to Pam Baggett for the garden design and plant donations. Many of the plants you see are available from her nursery near Hillsborough, NC. Visit Singing Springs Nursery on the internet at <www.singingspringsnursery.com>.

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