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Welcome to Thanksgiving Point's Children's Garden

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Welcome to Thanksgiving Point’s Children’s Garden

• To view the show, press on the right arrow in the bottom left corner of the screen. Each time you click it new information will appear.
In this show, you will learn about some of the plants that grow in the Children’s Garden.

- In each slide, the name and scientific name of the plant is listed.
- You will learn something about how the plant grows.
- Some interesting uses of the plants are also listed.
- After you’re done, take a map and see if you can find the plants in the garden.
Smooth Sumac
*Rhus glabra*

- The Smooth Sumac is a tree native to Utah.
- The Smooth Sumac has large compound pinnate leaves. That means the leaf is divided into many little “leaf-lets”.
- The sour red fruit can be chewed to quench thirst or made into a lemonade-like drink.
- Native Americans used sumac for medicines and the bark was used to make dye.
Mullein  
*Vervascum thapsus*

- Mullein has soft, fuzzy leaves with a tall spike full of yellow flowers.
- Mullein is a biennial. This means it takes two years to complete its life cycle and produce seeds.
- Other names for mullein are Adam’s Flannel and Beggar’s Blanket.
- Mullein has been used for many things. The leaves can be made into a poultice to treat sunburns, a yellow dye is made from its flowers, and the dried leaves can be used to start fires.
- Old superstition says that Mullein has the power to drive away evil spirits.
Lambs Ear

*Stachys byzantina*

- Lambs Ear has leaves that are very soft and fuzzy.
- Lambs Ear comes from Turkey and Iran where it grows wild and is considered a weed.
- It grows outward from the center and can leave a bear spot in the middle of the plants.
Yucca
Genus Yucca

- Yucca’s grow in desert regions of the south-west.
- Their flower spikes can grow up to 16 feet tall!
- Yucca flowers are pollinated by the Pronuba Moth. Without the Pronuba Moth the yucca could not make seeds and would become extinct. The Pronuba Moth relies on the Yucca for survival also. When two things live together we call this symbiosis.
- Native American’s had many uses for the Yucca. They would soak the leaves and pound them to get the fibers out of them. They would use the fibers to make rope, baskets, and sew garments. They ate the flowers and cooked the fruits.
- The roots have a substance in them called saponin that was used to make soap and shampoo.
Lavender
Genus *Lavandula*

- The name Lavender comes from the Latin word “lavare” which means to wash. Romans used Lavender in their baths.
- Today Lavender is used in perfumes, foot soaks, and is said to calm headaches and help people relax.
- Lavender plants have pretty spikes with rows of blue, purple, pink or white flowers.
Honeysuckle
*Lonicera heckrottii*

- Honeysuckle plants are covered with beautiful sweet smelling flowers.
- The attractive berries are eaten by birds but NOT people.
- The Honeysuckle Vine’s climb around the building near the Noah’s Ark fountain.
There are 70 different kinds of water lilies.

Water lilies are placed in three different groups: Night, Tropical, and Hardy. Hardy water lilies grow in our area.

Water lilies are food for fish and other wildlife.

The largest water lily is found in the Amazon River and its leaves can grow 2 to 6 feet in diameter.

Claude Monet had a water garden and painted water lilies because they were so beautiful.
Wormwood
Artemisia absinthium

- Wormwood has hairy, soft, gray leaves.
- There are many different types of Wormwood.
- The earliest description of wormwood is found on an Egyptian papyrus from 1600 B.C. and was used to rid the body of worms.
- Today we know Wormwood is poisonous. We plant it for its unique scent and pretty, soft, green-gray leaves.
Balloon Flower

*Platycodon grandiflorus*

- The Balloon Flower grows 2 to 3 feet tall.
- In mid-to late summer, globe-shaped blue flower buds appear that open to form a cupped, five pointed star.
‘Cheyenne’ Privet
*Ligustrum vulgare ‘Cheyenne’*

- Privets are plants used to make walls, tall barriers and sound barriers.
- The maze at the children’s garden is made from a Privet hedge.
- The hedge gets small white flowers in the early summer and tiny fruits in the fall. But DON’T eat the fruits they’re only for the birds.
Corkscrew Willow
Salix matsudana, ‘Tortuosa’

- The Corkscrew Willow is a fast growing tree that reaches 20 to 40 feet high.
- The fall color is yellow.
- Make sure you look at the twisted branches when you see this willow!
Strawberry
Genus *Fragaria*

- Native American’s ate strawberries when they got colds. Today we know strawberries are full of vitamin C.
- Minutemen from the American Revolution were saved from Scurvy, by drinking tea made from fresh strawberry leaves. Scurvy is a disease that causes bleeding gums and other problems.
- Strawberries spread by runners. Runners are above ground stems. When the runners touch the ground, a new strawberry plant grows.
- Today’s strawberries are much larger than the ones our ancestors ate.
Now it’s time to go find the plants in the Garden!

- Get a map from one of the Thanksgiving Point Volunteers.
- The plant locations are listed on the Map.
- Happy Hunting!!