

Groundcovers, continued

Helleborus Royal Heritage Strain (Lenten rose)

Blooming from February to March, hellebores are one of the first plants to welcome spring. Reaching a height of 15 inches, Royal Heritage Strain takes a year or two to establish in full shade to partial sun. Once established it will produce green, white, deep pink, or mauve blooms.

Ophiopogon japonicus 'Nanus' (dwarf Mondo grass)

This Mondo grass is frost- and drought-tolerant. The dark green evergreen grass clumps reach a height of 2 inches, making it ideal for edging walks and planting between stones on pathways. 'Nanus' does best in full shade, but will tolerate partial sun.

Bulbs

Bulbs, often the first sign of new life after a cold winter, revitalize gardens in the spring. They can be used in almost any situation from flower beds to rock gardens and grassy areas.

Galanthus elwesii (snowdrop)

Valued by snowdrop enthusiasts for its large, honey-scented flowers. Reaching a height of 5 to 9 inches, the white bloom delights gardeners in February to March, often poking through a layer of snow. The bulbs are avoided by squirrels and rodents as part of the plant is toxic to them, ensuring your winter display will go undisturbed.

Narcissus 'Toto' (dwarf daffodil)

The first dwarf white daffodil on the market, this specimen reaches a height of 10 inches. These fragrant, star-shaped flowers bloom in March and April. They can be planted in sun to partial shade.



Helleborus Royal Heritage Strain



About the Scott Arboretum

The Scott Arboretum is a green oasis uniquely situated on the Swarthmore College campus. Over 300 acres create the College landscape and provide a display of the best ornamental plants recommended for Delaware Valley gardens.

Established in 1929 as a living memorial to Arthur Hoyt Scott, Class of 1895, through a bequest from his family, the Arboretum continues to thrive today. There are over 4,000 different kinds of plants grown on the campus, selected for their outstanding ornamental qualities, ease of maintenance, and resistance to disease. Major plant collections include: flowering cherries, crabapples, hollies, lilacs, magnolias, tree peonies, rhododendrons, hydrangeas, conifers, vines and summer flowering shrubs, viburnums, and witchhazels.

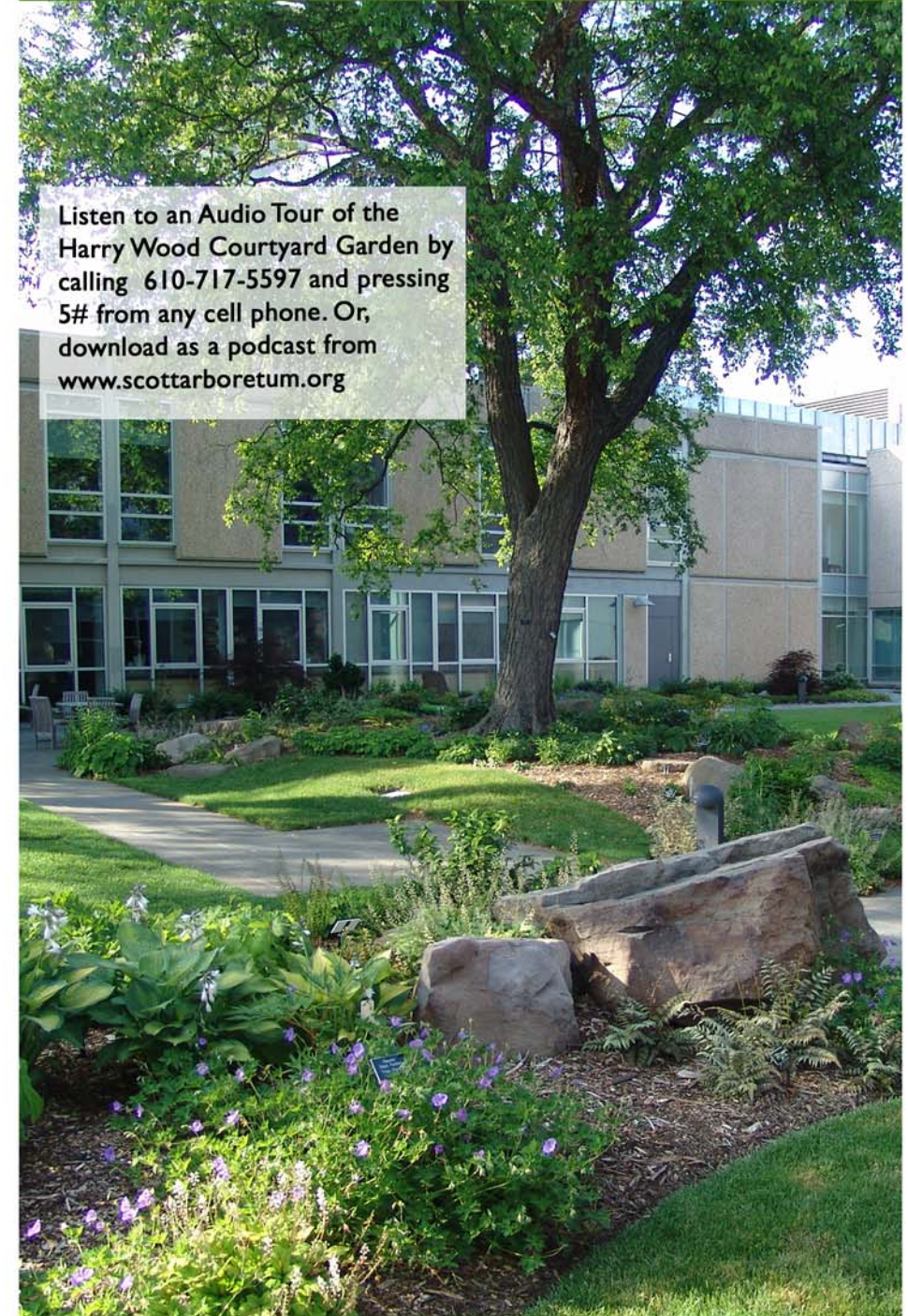
Maps and specialized brochures on plants growing on the campus are available at the Arboretum office, which also houses a horticultural reference library. The Arboretum grounds are open from dawn to dusk year-round. Admission is free. The Arboretum is supported in part by the Associates of the Scott Arboretum, a membership group. For additional information, call 610-328-8025 Monday to Friday, 8:30 - noon and 1:30 - 4:30.

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The Harry Wood Courtyard Garden

Listen to an Audio Tour of the Harry Wood Courtyard Garden by calling 610-717-5597 and pressing 5# from any cell phone. Or, download as a podcast from www.scottarboretum.org



 THE SCOTT ARBORETUM
OF SWARTHMORE COLLEGE

About Harry Wood

Harry Wood began his career as a gardener on an estate in the Lake District of England. He came to the United States in his late teens and began working on an estate on the Main Line of Philadelphia. In 1927, he brought his talents to Swarthmore College. For the next forty years, he spent time at Swarthmore as the Head Gardener, the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, and finally as a consulting horticulturist. As a garden monument states, this garden "is a tribute to his heart, mind, and hands, and his deep devotion to creating beauty on this campus."



Garden History and Design

In the early 1960's, landscape architect William Frederick, Jr. (Swarthmore, '48), in a joint effort with Harry Wood, designed this garden. Irregularly shaped beds were mapped out, edged with flagstone, and surrounded by lawn. The placement of larger stones brought from the Pocono Mountains became the basis for the arrangement of plants. The intent was to create

a low maintenance area that could be enjoyed year-round. The original design consisted of perennials, shrubs and trees. The beds were covered with English ivy.

As a result of college renovations to the Science Center Building, the garden's size was doubled in 2005. The redesign of the garden remained true to the theme of a low maintenance garden with year-round appeal. The garden now features many benches and tables, inviting visitors to enjoy the garden.

The final result is an inviting shade garden to be enjoyed as much from the indoors as by the casual passers-by. The open canopy of river birches allows light to seep through, creating variable shade intensities in the garden. Evergreen groundcovers add a variety of textures throughout the year, and flowering shrubs, groundcovers, and bulbs add color during the spring and summer.

Recommended plants seen in the Harry Wood Courtyard Garden

Canopy

Betula nigra (river birch)

One of the most heat-resistant of all North American birches, with attractive cinnamon-colored bark for winter interest. It attains a height of 40 to 70 feet and tolerates both wet and dry areas.

Betula nigra Heritage® (river birch)

This selection shows greater resistance to disease than other birches and has pleasantly exfoliating, salmon-colored bark.

Shrub Layer

Variety in the shrub layer adds depth to a landscape. The shrubs and small trees listed below were also chosen for shade tolerance.

Acer palmatum 'Shishigashira' (Japanese maple)

An upright small tree growing to 7-12 feet, this maple sports crinkly, somewhat curly leaves in compact tufts along the stem. 'Shishigashira' means "lion's head" in Japanese, perhaps referring to the bold shades of gold and crimson that burst forth in autumn.

Acer palmatum 'Tamukeyama' (Japanese maple)

This maple grows 6-8 feet tall, with cascading branches of lacy cut foliage. The young leaves emerge deep crimson-red and fade to deep purple red, holding their color well throughout the summer. Later, the leaves turn bright red to light up the autumn garden.

Camellia oleifera 'Winter's Interlude' (tea-oil camellia)

C. oleifera are fall blooming, produce white flowers, and originated from northern China. Cold-hardy gardeners can enjoy this species of camellia as long as the temperature does not fall below -10° F and plants are sheltered from winter wind and receive morning sun. 'Winter's Interlude' exhibits an upright form and produces lavender-pink, medium-sized flowers in the mid-fall.

Cephalotaxus harringtonii 'Duke Gardens' (Japanese plum-yew)

Discovered at the Sarah P. Duke Gardens of Duke University, 'Duke Gardens' forms a tight, flattened mound of large, glossy, deep-green foliage, ultimately reaching 4 feet. Grown in full sun or part shade, this evergreen plant adds a textural element year-round.

Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Nana Gracilis' (Dwarf Hinoki-cypress)

This dwarf evergreen reaches a height of 4 to 5 feet. Producing a sweet fragrance when crushed, the dark green foliage forms twisting, fan-shaped branchlets in dense tiered layers for ornamental appeal. 'Nana Gracilis' likes sun to partial shade and moist, well-drained soil.



Daphne x transatlantica
'Summer Ice'

Daphne x transatlantica

'Summer Ice' (daphne)

A small deciduous shrub, 'Summer Ice' boasts gray-green leaves with creamy white margins. Clusters of white to pale pink blooms exude a delightful fragrance throughout the summer. This daphne prefers full sun and moist, well-drained soil.

Daphne genkwa Hakenberry Group (lilac daphne)

This deciduous daphne features lilac flowers on slender branches, blooming in the spring before the leaves emerge. Growing 3 to 4 feet tall with an open habit, this daphne needs well-drained soil in sun to partial shade, and can be somewhat of a challenge to establish.

Enkianthus campanulatus

'Showy Lanterns' (redvein enkianthus)

Hanging clusters of pink flowers appear late spring to early summer. Rich red leaves are a delight in the fall. It reaches 6 to 8 feet tall and requires sun to partial shade and well-drained soil.



Enkianthus campanulatus
'Showy Lanterns'

Paeonia 'Black Panther' (tree peony)

This tree peony grows to 3 to 4 feet and features cut-leaf foliage. Its mahogany-red, large semi-double blooms arrive in the early mid-season.

Paeonia 'Kiushu Caprice' (tree peony)

This tree peony is by far the earliest to bloom. The large pink flowers are semi-double and are long-lasting.

Groundcovers

Groundcovers are typically low-growing perennials that spread by underground root systems or trailing stems that root where they touch the ground. Aside from their pleasing appearances, they also help control erosion and suppress weed growth. The groundcovers found in this garden were chosen for texture and shade tolerance.



Asarum splendens

Asarum splendens (Chinese wild ginger)

Its common name comes from the scent of its cut leaves or roots. This evergreen gem has heart-shaped green foliage with silvery blotches. Large, 2-inch, purple flowers arrive in May. Easy to propagate from rhizomes, it grows in partial to full shade.

Epimedium pinnatum subsp. *colchicum* (barrenwort)

A fast-spreading groundcover reaching a height of 8 to 12 inches. Situated in full to partial shade, *E. pinnatum* subsp. *colchicum* will produce yellow flowers in April. The foliage is larger and a deeper green than the straight species and the flowers are slightly larger.

Epimedium x rubrum (barrenwort)

New leaves emerge red in the spring, mature to green, and develop a red tinge in the fall. It produces yellow and red flowers in April, and does well under the shade of deciduous trees.

Geranium 'Rozanne' (cranesbill geranium)

Planted in full to partial shade, this geranium spreads to create a carpet of blue blooms. 'Rozanne' grows to 12 inches and glows with color from June to November. This plant also looks great spilling from container plantings.



Geranium
'Rozanne'