Late Bloomers in the Ten Broeck Mansion Gardens

“To Autumn. Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness” - John Keats (1795-1821)

Stroll through our historic landscape and discover plants & flowers that peak in late summer and early fall.

For Families:

- **Ask children to name the colors** of the blooms they see. Which have a scent? Which do you like the best? Which is the tallest? Which is the smallest?
- **Our gardens are global!** Ask children to read the descriptions below, and then ask them where each plant was from originally. We have an Explorers Guide in our garden kiosk (near the parking lot).
- **Do you see any other creatures?** Bees, birds, squirrels, chipmunks, or groundhogs? Our garden is an ecosystem: each insect and animal has an important role to play.
- **What’s in a name?** Did you know plants have a **common name** (in bold) and **scientific name** (in italics) written in Latin? Common names vary from region to region, and often give a sense of local history. The scientific names help botanists keep the identities of plants clear.

1) **Copper Beech** (*fagus sylvatica f. purpurea*) The copper beach tree is from Europe, and came to North America in the mid-1700s. This tree is the oldest tree on our site, and was planted by the Olcott family in 1880. The leaves change in color from deep coppery-purple in late spring to vibrant shades of gold and red in the fall. Be sure to notice the beautiful bark on the thick trunk and branches.

2) **Garlic chives** (*Allium tuberosum*) are native to temperate (or moderate) climates in the Northern hemisphere. They are edible (including the blooms) and commonly used as an herb to add a mild garlic flavor to food. They are especially popular in Korean dishes. They attract pollinators to fall gardens, and self-seed prolifically.

3) **Concord Grapes** (*Vitis labrusca ‘Concord’)** Concord grapes were first developed in Concord, Massachusetts. It is one of the oldest grape species produced in the United States. A climbing vine, they produce green flowers in spring and seeded grape late in the season. Linger under our grape arbor and smell the rich scent - just like your favorite grape jelly! The Olcott Family, who lived in the Ten Broeck Mansion for 100 years, had a greenhouse with a “grapery” to grow grapes year-round. It was located just north of where our grape arbor is today.
4) **Japanese anemone** (*Anemone hupehensis var. japonica*) is also known as Japanese thimbleweed. These lovely flowers are native to China, but were naturalized to Japan. They were introduced to European gardens during the 1600s by explorers. Japanese anemone flowers in late summer into fall with pale rose to mauve flowers; white versions, first hybridized in France in 1858, may be seen in our shade garden.

5) **Russian Sage** (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*) is not technically from Russia—nor is it really sage! Though it was named by a Russian botanist, it is native to Central Asia. It is a member of the mint family, and likely was called “sage” due to the scent of the plant when crushed. It was first brought to North American gardens in the late 1800s. It thrives in dry, hot weather, but lasts into fall.

6) **Hydrangea** (*Hydrangea*) is native to China and Japan, but there are also varieties of hydrangea native to North America. The word hydrangea comes from the Greek words for “water barrel,” a name which is fitting for a plant that needs a lot of water! Hydrangea in the Ten Broeck Mansion gardens range from crisp white to shades of rose and green.

7) **Common Sage** (*Salvia officinalis*) is an herb in the mint family. Native to southern Europe, it has been in North America for over three hundred years and is well known as a seasoning, and blooms with blue flowers streaked with purple.

**Try it at home:** Sage has been used for medicinal purposes since the Middle Ages. In the 1800s, domestic advice writer Catherine Beecher recommended sage for seasoning in meats and cheese, and drinking sage tea when ill. Find more recipes in her *Domestic Receipt Book* (1846), available online.

> “Balm, sage, and sorrel, mixed with sliced lemon and boiling water poured on, and then sweetened, is a fine drink.” - Catherine Beecher (1800-1878)

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**Did you know?** Volunteers help care for our gardens. Join our Friends of the Ten Broeck Landscape to keep our gardens looking great. **Please contact us to learn more and become involved!**

Thank you for visiting our gardens today.

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The Albany County Historical Association is a 501c3 nonprofit educational museum.