

# What's In Bloom?

AT ADKINS ARBORETUM IN OCTOBER



***Cornus florida*** (KOR-nus FLOR-ih-dah) flowering dogwood—Find dogwood's shiny red, small fruits among the leaves. The fruits turn red well before the leaves signaling to birds and mammals that they are ready to be eaten and their seeds dispersed. Look for dogwood at the entrance to the woodland paths.



***Sassafras albidum*** (SAS-ah-frass AL-bee-dum) sassafras—Sassafras trees have three distinct leaf shapes on each tree: oval, mitten and trident. The leaves turn shades of orange, yellow and red in the fall. The fruits are shiny dark blue/black drupes sitting in a cup attached to the tree by red stalks. Found along the edges of woods and meadows.



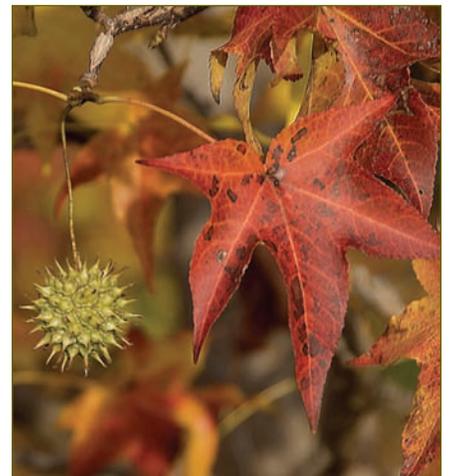
***Aralia spinosa*** (ah-RALL-ee-ah spin-OH-sah) devil's walking stick—A deciduous shrub or small tree with huge leaves made up of many leaflets that turn yellow in fall. White blossoms in August develop into large clusters of purple black berries in September. Birds eat the berries. Called devil's walking stick because the trunk has rings of thorns. Found along woodland and meadow edges.



***Fagus grandifolia*** (FAY-gus grand-ih-FOHL-ee-ah) American beech—Golden to coppery leaves often remain on the tree throughout most of the winter. Squirrels and birds relish the shiny, triangular beechnuts found hidden in the prickly husk of the fruit. *Fagus* is from the Greek word meaning 'to eat'. Large beech trees grow along Tuckahoe Valley path.



***Rhus copallinum*** (ROOS koh-pah-LY-num) winged or shining sumac—Dense furry clusters of small crimson fruits mature in September and October and persist into the winter. The clusters gradually droop downwards whereas staghorn and smooth sumac clusters stay upright. Sumac grows in meadows and open sunny areas. The Baltimore zoo harvests sumac leaves here in summer to feed the zoo's sifakas, a type of lemur.



***Liquidambar styraciflua*** (lik-wid-AM-ber steer-rah-SIF-lew-ah) sweet gum—A fast growing tree with star-shaped leaves. At 20-30 years old, it bears dry, round, prickly fruits called gum balls. It is one of the most colorful fall trees as the leaves turn orange to red or burgundy. Found along the edges of woods and meadows.

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***Euonymus americanus*** (yew-WAHN-ih-mus am-ehr-ih-CAHN-us) Heart's-a-bursting—A delightful fuchsia pink fruit that bursts open to reveal orange seeds in the fall give this plant its name, hearts-a-bursting or strawberry bush. Its green vertical stems persist throughout the year. It is abundant in moist woods and favored by deer. Found throughout the woods.



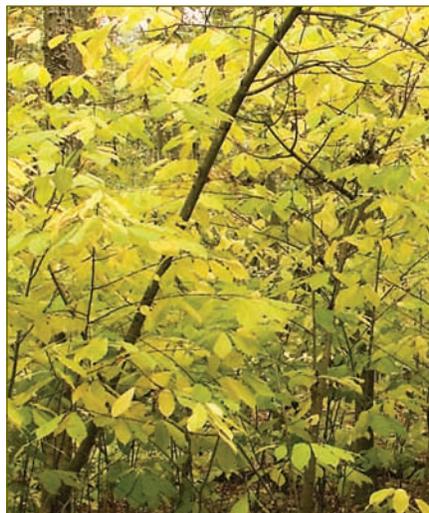
***Arisaema triphyllum*** (air-ih-SEE-mah try-FILL-um) Jack-in-the-pulpit—Jack-in-the-pulpit prefers shaded, wet areas where it can re-seed readily. Three to five leaflets emerge in spring and form a canopy over the green and brown hooded flower. This is followed by bright red-orange clusters of berries in late summer and fall that attract wood thrush and turkey.



***Nyssa sylvatica*** (NISS-sah syl-VA-tih-kah) black gum—One of fall's first red leaf color displays. At the same time, the fruits on the female tree are ripening. Birds relish the small, bluish-black, berry-like fruits. Bees use the flowers for honey production, thus producing the birds' fall bounty. Find black gum along Blockston Branch.



***Liriodendron tulipifera*** (leer-ee-oh-DEN-dron two-lih-PIF-er-ah) tulip tree—A member of the magnolia family and named for its tulip-shaped flowers. In the fall, the leaves turn a bright yellow color due to the loss of green chlorophyll and the presence of xanthophyll pigments. The winged seeds attract songbirds and chipmunks. Found throughout the Arboretum's woods.



***Asimina triloba*** (ass-uh-MEE-nah try-LOH-bah) pawpaw—Paw paw blooms in April. The small mango shaped fruit ripens in fall and tastes like a cross between banana and pineapple. It is coveted by wildlife. The green leaves are hosts for the Zebra Swallowtail butterfly caterpillars, and the leaves turn a luminous yellow in the fall.



***Acer rubrum*** (AY-sur ROO-brum) red maple—One of the first to color in autumn, with the 3 lobed leaves turning vibrant scarlet to burgundy. It is also one of the first trees to flower in spring with reddish clusters of flowers along the stems that turn into winged seeds known as maple keys. Grows in swamps and moist woods from 40 to 120 ft tall. Found along Blockston Branch.