



Summer Guide

RAIN GARDENS

Rain gardens are constructed landscape depressions that allow water to soak into the ground instead of running into storm drains. Rain gardens reduce and filter sediment and pollutants, control flooding and erosion, and support native plants that feed butterflies, moths, bees and birds.

WHERE TO SEE THEM: Near the Administrative Building, Columbarium Courts 10 and 11 and the south end of the cemetery

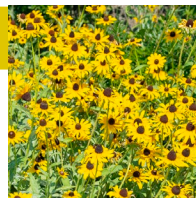


Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

Bright orange flowers top this perennial that attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.

Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)

With bright yellow petals, this daisy-like flower attracts birds and butterflies.



Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)

The bright red blooms of cardinal flowers attract birds, butterflies and hummingbirds.

Other rain garden plants include Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), Blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium*), Blazing Star (*Liatris spicata*), Seashore Mallow (*Kosteletzkya virginica*), Orange Coneflower (*Rudbeckia fulgida*), River Birch (*Betula nigra*), Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*).



Section 43 of Arlington National Cemetery in 2020. (ANC/Elizabeth Fraser)



ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY
EDUCATION SERIES

Planting Decisions

Maintaining healthy and attractive plants throughout the hot and humid Virginia summers can be difficult. Arlington National Cemetery strives to create aesthetically pleasing gardens that thrive without continuous irrigation. Over time, this has led to an increase in the use of drought-tolerant and native plants.

Trees and shrubs are chosen for the site conditions. Considerations include the amount of sunshine or shade, if the site is formal or informal, and seasonal interest. Horticulturists avoid plants that are locally considered invasive.



Perennial & Annual Flowers

In the summer, flowering perennials and annuals add splashes of color to the cemetery. Perennials used in the cemetery include catmint (*Nepeta*), iceplant (*Delosperma*), stonecrop (*Sedum*), and ironweed (*Vernonia*). Annuals change from year to year but often include impatiens and begonias.

WHERE TO SEE THEM: Spanish-American War Monument, Tanner Amphitheater, Tomb of the Civil War Unknowns and the Welcome Center



Memorial Day Tea Roses (*Rosa Memorial Day*)



Fragrant, large pink roses bloom from Memorial Day until freezing temperatures arrive in November or December. These roses love sun and do well in the heat and humidity of Virginia summers.

WHERE TO SEE THEM: Welcome Center

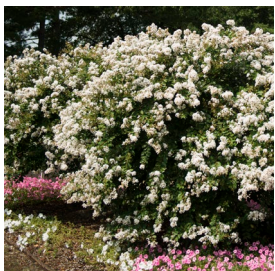
Turf Grass



Over 550 acres of the cemetery is highly maintained turf grass. This grass is mowed at least once per week during the growing season. The height is maintained between 3-5 inches. Each year, nearly 18 acres are sodded and 30 acres are renovated to restore whole sections of the cemetery. All of the turf is aerated twice annually.

During the spring and summer there may be as many as 90 contract employees responsible for maintaining the turf and grounds.

Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*)



After most trees are done flowering, crape myrtles bloom beautiful white, pink, red or purple flowers. These flowers last throughout the hot summer and into the fall.

WHERE TO SEE THEM: Columbarium Courts 1-4, USS Maine Memorial and the upper deck of the Visitors' Parking Garage

