

The
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Georgeson Botanical Garden

Grow

Learn

Explore



UAF is an AA/EQ employer and educational institution.

potential for more than 30,000 world visitors annually,

- interesting landscape combinations of annuals with perennial ornamentals highlighting the Fairbanks, AK official city flower, the delphinium,
- an exceptional positive image for UAF and a visible recruitment tool for students of all ages, and
- a memorial to Dr. Frank Wooding, former professor of agronomy and avid Fairbanks gardener.

All things tall and vining are found in the Robert Speck Memorial Garden as well as:

- trial garden for perennials grown in raised beds,
- demonstrations of combinations of perennials and annuals useful in Alaska's home and commercial gardens
- structural elements (arbors, raised beds, fences) that provide planting location for annual vines, sunflowers, giant dinnerplate dahlias and nose-level sweet peas,
- location of Forget-Me-Not Garden Club memorial bird house honoring past members, and
- a colorful memorial to Dr. Robert Speck, former UAF Professor of Mining Engineering and avid Fairbanks gardener.



- a memorial for Dorothy Truran, Fairbanksan and former Director of the Governor's Council for Developmental Disabilities.

Vegetables, fruits and grains reach their peak in the Ohlsen Family Food Garden where visitors:

- view nearly all significant vegetable and fruit crops adapted to the Interior and best methods of cultivation,
- explore research on hardiness of Russian apples, raspberries, gooseberries, perennial onions, wild vegetables and much more,
- participate in classes and outreach programs related to vegetable crop cultivation, use of plastic mulches, irrigation techniques, and more,



The aroma of fresh herbs tantalizes the senses in the Dorothy Truran Memorial Herb Garden where visitors can enjoy:

- trial garden, especially hardiness trials, for culinary and medicinal herbs,
- demonstration garden of Alaska native medicinal and edible plants begun in collaboration with the UAF Alaska Native Language Center,
- an outlet for creative energies of the volunteer Fairbanks Herb Bunch, who design, plant and evaluate herbs in summer and

- view vegetable trials conducted in collaboration with Denali Seed Co., Anchorage, to find the best of the best for Alaska market and home gardens,

- learn about important grain and oil seed crops,
- see plots of breeder's seed and plants for 'Kiska' raspberries, 'Toklat' strawberries, 'Pioneer' strawberries, 'Yukon Chief' sweet corn, 'Early Tanager' tomato, cultivars originated at the Agricultural Experiment Station by Dr. Arvo Kallio,
- help cultivate accessible gardens for people with limited mobility, those who need or like to sit while gardening, those with limited space or gardeners with children, and
- a demonstration of container gardening with flowers/herbs/vegetables including variety trials, use of vermi-compost and other soil amendments.



A shady retreat for a hot day is found in the Greta Risse Memorial Shade Garden along with:

- trial and demonstration gardens for shade-tolerant ornamentals,
- hardy fern trials in collaboration with the Hardy Fern Foundation, Bellingham, WA,
- a fabulous fuchsia basket collection in memory of Glen Pruitt, Fairbanks gardener, and
- a memorial for Greta Risse, wife of Lee Risse, for many years the Interior's largest greenhouse grower.

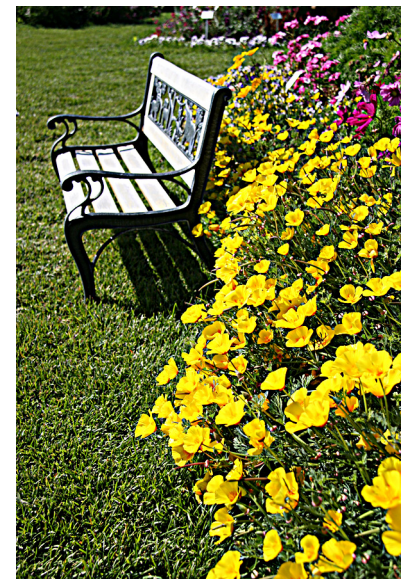
Our entrance kiosk has:



- informational display of agricultural statistics, weather facts, history of the Fairbanks Experiment Farm and the Garden, and
- a demonstration of all of the major commercial wood varieties that are harvested by the forest industry throughout Alaska.

The annual flower display garden is loaded with color and:

- educational information for Alaska's home gardeners and landscapers in new and interesting landscape flowers,
- a research project on recycled wood/plastic raised beds,
- more than 300 different kinds of annual flowers to support Alaska's largest agricultural industry – the greenhouse, nursery industry,
- cooperative research trials with major national and international seed companies,
- volunteer opportunities for Master Gardeners and other interested people from around the world who keep it weeded, deadheaded and collect summer flowering and plant quality data,
- an educational peek at Alaska's great horticulture





Natural dye plants are highlighted in the Fairbanks Weavers' and Spinners' Guild Dye Garden



This research trial garden and display garden is designed and maintained by the Fairbanks Weavers' and Spinners' Guild (especially Gail Mayo) for information on plants useful in natural dyeing of wools and other fabrics. Members test hardiness of dye plants, then use the flowers, stems and roots in classes in natural dyes throughout the community. We get an outstanding educational display. They get abundant plant materials for classes.

Gardens inspire great art, music and literature – our collection includes:

- Tom Torrens (Seattle, WA) 1991 - Diving bell birdbath,
- Darleen Masiak (Fairbanks, AK) - 1995 metal sculpture, *A Dance, the Sun and Moon*; 2007 stone sculpture, Inukshuk,
- Wendy Croskrey & UAF Art students 1992 - *Inflorescence* student art, bronze sculpture (pictured above),
- Chad Dietz (Fairbanks, AK), 2004, Ornamental Iron Secret Garden Gate, entrance to the Babula Children's Garden,
- Ellen Hatch (Albuquerque, NM) - 2010- Illustrated bench with Shel Silverstein poem, "He thought he meant dit sown," Babula Children's Garden Maze,
- Nancy Hausle-Johnson - Birds of farm and field handcrafted tiles (2011)
- Catherine Rogers Jonsson 1981 - metal sculpture, *The Crab*, and
- The Dead End Poets' Society™, a group of poets whose work is highlighted in one of the dead ends of our hedge maze Serge LeComte (Nikiski, Alaska), Shel Silverstein (deceased), and Anna Grossnickle Hines (Gualala, California) with more to come.

The hardiest plants in the world are on trial in the Perennial Plant Trial Garden including:



We connect with community youth programs such as:

- Family Centered Services Youth Employment Training Program,
- The Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout service programs, and
- The Girl Scouts of America projects for Gold & Silver Awards.

- research trials on more than 1000 perennials for ornamental use in Alaska. Trials include suitability for landscapes, invasiveness, hardiness, and disease resistance. Any suitable plants are propagated and distributed to local Alaska greenhouse businesses



- peony research to identify cultivars that can support Alaska's newest horticultural export industry, specialty cut flowers. Research with peonies as cut flowers was begun at GBG in 2001. Fresh cut flowers were exported for the first time in 2007. There are now 47 peony growers statewide, the most in any state in the U.S. Imagine that!
- cooperative woody plant trials, USDA NC-7 Regional Trials based in Ames, Iowa,
- a collection of Alaska wild iris, *Iris setosa* cultivars, most named and introduced by Fairbanksan Larry Duffy,
- research trials with Itoh hybrid peonies for Planteck Biotechnologies, Quebec and
- cultivation research with lingonberries and bog blueberries to learn methods of field cultivation for wild berries.

All things cut flowers will be highlighted in the Dorothy Beistline Cut Flower Garden that will include:

- an outdoor covered classroom for short courses, summer classes and public gatherings emphasizing outdoor cut flower production,



- Natural Resources Management plant propagation, greenhouse management and senior thesis classes,
 - Watercolor Society painting classes,
 - the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival and UAF Summer Fine Arts Camp outdoor classroom,
 - Master Gardeners classes and demonstrations,
 - UAF Summer Sessions classes and workshops,
 - Ag in the Classroom teacher education classes,
 - UAF Civil and Mechanical Engineering Depts senior projects, and
 - the Alaska Summer Research Academy summer classes, internships and research experiences in botany, mathematics, engineering, and plant modeling.
- and provide seeds and plant materials for research and educational programs such as:
 - seeds for a variety of master's projects, in natural resources management, biology and chemistry,
 - fruits, vegetables for processing research by Cooperative Extension Service home economists,
 - great grasshopper food for USDA research,
 - plants for virus and other disease research at UAF and USDA,
 - insect traps for research on aphids, bumble bees USDA ARS,
 - source of voles for Institute of Arctic Biology research,
 - seeds and plant materials for Masters of Fine Arts students,
 - graduate student research on wildflowers, lingonberry, and wild blueberry cultivation, and
 - beekeeping demonstration and research with local beekeepers.





Current Garden Happenings and Plans

In the entire garden, we:

- conduct guided educational field trips for schools, youth programs and pre-school groups in the greenhouse and garden,
- support the Hutchison High School welding program where students make picnic benches, sign holders and more,
- provide a location for the 4-H Cloverbud Camp,
- provide the setting for a variety of public events such as weddings, memorials, picnics, retirement parties and more,
- support classes and outreach adult educational programs for:
 - Cooperative Extension Service herb, vegetable and food preservation classes,
 - UAF Institute of Arctic Biology campus ecology class,
 - Alaska Native Language Center ethnobotany projects,
 - UAF Art Department drawing classes,

- a research area to evaluate flower varieties, both perennial and annual, useful as cut flowers,
- a rainwater conservation and catchment system: use of water captured from the roof for drip irrigation by gravity, solar, and
- a memorial for Dorothy Beistline, pioneer Alaskan and local florist.

Alaska wildflowers and wetland plants abound in Ginger's Native Plant Garden that is slowly expanding uphill and includes:

- a pond and constructed wetland designed by 4-H youth at Denali Elementary School,
- a demonstration constructed wetland and plant biofilter system for home landscapes,
- numerous classes and field trips in constructed wetlands, their flora and fauna, pond construction and maintenance techniques,
- research into cultivation of Alaska native plants including seed germination and vegetative propagation, evaluation of adaptability of wildflowers to cultivation, disease and insect pest problems, and
- identification site for common Alaska wildflowers and their use in home and commercial landscapes.



Climb the hill and experience the best view in the Garden at the James and Marilyn Drew Amphitheater.



The Drew Amphitheater is an outdoor classroom for special events located between the UAF North Campus Arboretum and Ginger's Native Plant Garden. It was built as part of the Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout Service project and now hosts university and K-12 field trips and events such as scout ceremonies, small weddings and parties. Donations are now being solicited to construct a roof on the amphitheater to make it user friendly in all kinds of weather.

The Dr. Walt and Marita Babula Children's Garden is a place for families to connect with wildflowers, water, trees, weather and much more. Come and experience:

- the giant hedge maze and the creativity of the Dead End Poets' Society, a poetry competition for K-6 children along with well known poets,
- the children's tree house with educational programs and interactive displays in natural resources management, specifically forestry, bridge

We conduct research and provide educational opportunities and displays in a variety of specialty gardens including the annual flower and perennial ornamental trial gardens, the family food garden, shade garden, natural dye garden, herb garden and children's garden. We grow native and introduced species and demonstrate the diversity of plants available in the sub-arctic North along with best methods of cultivation to conserve soils and water; to promote optimum plant growth and crop yields; and to minimize the effects of chemicals, weeds and other pests on Alaska's environment.

We follow guidelines of the national Sustainable Sites Initiative for best practices in soils and soil management, water management, appropriate plant selection, and wildlife habitat management and provide a framework for sustainable development in Alaska. We also explore Athabaskan ethnobotany emphasizing traditional food, medicine, dyes and other creative uses with an eye toward preserving knowledge, promoting traditions common in Far North communities and combining these traditions with energy efficient and sustainable new technologies.

We conduct applied plant research that adds to this body of knowledge, and we share results of our efforts through formal and informal education for all ages, published works for the local and scientific community, and Internet networking.

Donate! The Georgeson Botanical Garden is funded in part from state and federal dollars for horticultural research and education, but we rely heavily on public donations and grants for special programs, specialty gardens and all of the public landscaping.

We welcome all donations to the garden, whether it be in-kind volunteer time, plant and seed donations or major donations to support special gardens. Our most pressing need right now is to build our endowment and our new Endowed Bench Program for Student Internships.

If you would like to get involved, please contact us and we will be happy to show you how you can build a better botanical garden for Alaska.

www.georgesonbg.org
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Research, Education and Community Outreach in the Garden

Dr. Patricia S. Holloway, Director
Ms. Katie DiCristina, Research Horticulturist
Mr. Grant E.M. Matheke, Research Horticulturist
Ms. Kathleen Buchholz, Administrative Assistant

Our Vision: to research and demonstrate responsible horticultural science in Alaska which includes plants grown intensively in gardens, market gardens and greenhouses, and plants used to conserve and manage Alaska's diverse landscapes.

Our Goal: to be the center for horticultural knowledge in sub-arctic Alaska and provide information to everyone in the circumboreal North interested in growing plants, sustainably managing lands for garden culture, producing plants commercially or for home use, exploring new crops and new markets, preserving traditional plant knowledge, expanding uses of native plants, conserving and rehabilitating plants on wild lands, and promoting good stewardship of horticultural resources.



- engineering, wildlife and birds in forests, farms and fields,
- the children's pioneer garden and cabin,
- a water garden/flume, the location for educational programs in watershed management, measurements of stream flow, volume, and hydroelectric generation,
- a weather garden with interactive displays on Alaska weather and clouds,
- an interactive willow tunnel,
- an outdoor gathering area for K-12 class activities relating to natural resources management,
- Kenton's Shelter- picnic and event shelter with bbq area for events in the children's garden and
- a composting/solar powered toilet (2011)- Completely self-contained toilet will demonstrate solar heating, solar electrical generation, water capture, and grey water use for plant growth.



Our future plans call for:

- a Recycle Garden,
- Risse's Greenhouse garden,
- Alpine and Arctic plant research garden, and
- an experimental wildflower meadow.



Offices and greenhouses open year round
Garden open May through September
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School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences
Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station

