



Historic Columbia

April 11 - 13, 2024

Spring Plant Sale

At one of two plant sales Historic Columbia holds every year, attendees can purchase and learn about a wide array of plants propagated from the Living Collections across all of our historic sites, from herbaceous plants to woody perennials to evergreens. This year, we are thrilled to offer a special selection of heirloom plants.

HC Favorites | pages 1-10

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All of the selections offered are integral to the stories we tell on our 14 acres of public grounds and gardens, and most are rare or not offered elsewhere. **Each plant is individually priced.**



Allium

"Ornamental Onion"

This perennial is low maintenance, drought tolerant, and deer resistant. The onion-scented compact clump of glossy green leaves and the rounded purple flower clusters stay around a foot tall. Long-lasting flowers are great for pollinators but also for cut flower arrangements.

\$ \$10
18 - 24 in.

4 in. Pot
Full Sun to Part Shade

Zones 5 - 8
Woodrow Wilson Family Home



Asimina triloba

"Pawpaw"

This unique fruit tree native to North America has the largest edible fruit indigenous to the continent and a long history of cultivation by Native American tribes and early settlers. Pawpaws are small- to medium-sized understory trees, reaching heights of 15 to 30 feet. They have a tropical appearance, with large, drooping leaves growing up to 12 inches long. The tree produces maroon, upside-down flowers in the spring, which develop into large, oblong fruits that ripen in the fall. Fruits are typically 3 to 6 inches long and have a greenish-yellow skin when ripe, with a unique flavor often described as a mix of mango, banana, and melon with a creamy, custard-like texture.

\$ \$30
15 - 30 ft.

7 gallon Pot
Full Sun to Part Shade

Zones 5 - 9
Seibels House



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Bletilla ochracea 'Chinese Butterfly'

“Hardy Ground Orchid”

This Chinese-native, hardy ground orchid is a must-grow! Creamy yellow blooms with lemon yellow and red throats top off deciduous strap-like foliage. When the plant is established, it can bloom for well over a month. Needs rich, well-drained soil with adequate moisture.

\$20

18 - 24 in.

1 gallon Pot

Part Sun to Part Shade

Zones 6 - 9

Hampton-Preston Mansion



Callicarpa dichotoma 'Shiji Murasaki'

“Wine Spritzer Beautyberry”

This is primarily a foliage plant with its surreal reticulated variegation. It is a sparse bloomer and berry producer, but who cares - with leaves like this, it is worth planting! Don't push it into the fall with a lot of fertilizer, as this will render it susceptible to cold damage. It needs to harden off well before winter. Can be grown in sun or shade, but lower light seems to produce the best variegation.

\$15

Up to 20 in.

1 gallon Pot

Part Sun to Part Shade

Zones 7 - 10

Hampton-Preston Mansion



Dahlia imperialis

“Mexican Tree Dahlia”

Cultivated from Mexico in the 16th century, *Dahlia imperialis* is considered a tree dahlia, as it can grow from 6 to 15 feet high bearing thick stems and large leaves. Its height makes for an incredible border that will bloom well into October/November. In the wild, it can reach 30 feet, but HC's plants only reach around 15 feet. The bamboo-looking stalks easily grow to a massive 3-inch diameter and are topped with oversized but typical pendant, or nodding, style flowerheads with a row of lavender/pink petals offset by an orange center. The flowers typically open within days of our first frost. Nevertheless, this tropical-looking gem is worth growing just for its stature and texture in the garden.

\$25

Average 15 ft.

1 gallon Pot

Full Sun to Part Shade

Zones 7b - 9b

Seibels House



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Dianthus

"Carnations"

This is a charming perennial flower known for its beautiful, fragrant double flowers with delicate pink petals that are reminiscent of apple blossoms. The blooms have a sweet, spicy fragrance that adds to their appeal. The plant grows in compact mounds, reaching a height of about 8 to 12 inches and spreading 12 to 18 inches wide. The foliage is blue green, creating a nice contrast with the soft pink flowers. This is a prolific bloomer, with flowers appearing in spring to early summer and sometimes reblooming in the fall. It prefers well-drained soil and full sun to partial shade. It is also known for its good heat and drought tolerance.

\$15

8 - 10 in.

1 gallon Pot

Full Sun to Part Sun

Zones 4 - 9

Woodrow Wilson Family Home



Drimiopsis maculata

"African False Hosta"

This wild bulb from South Africa's Eastern Cape Province emerges in spring to form clumps of 8-inch by 2-inch fleshy, green leaves covered with dark spots. The attractive 8-inch tall by 1-foot wide foliage is topped in late April through May with 1-foot tall spikes of tiny off-white bells, making quite a show when the clumps get large. *Drimiopsis maculata* does not prefer full sun, although it will take a few hours without a problem...very easy in an array of garden soils.

\$10

6 in.

4 in. Pot

Part Sun to Part Shade

Zones 7 - 10

Woodrow Wilson Family Home



Elletaria cardamomum

"True Cardamom"

This ginger relative produces attractive foliage from rhizomes. Here it can stay under 2 feet, but it gets much larger in tropics where it is grown for the expensive spice Cardamom. Leaves have a delightful fragrance when handled. Like most ginger relatives, this plant likes fertile soil with lots of organic matter and ample water. Mulch for winter protection except in the warmest areas. It is native to southern Asia.

\$15

Up to 24 in.

1 gallon Pot

Part Sun to Part Shade

Zones 8 - 10

Seibels House



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Erigeron pulchellus 'Meadow Muffin'

“Robin’s Plantain”

'Meadow Muffin' is a selection of the eastern US native Erigeron, found by plantsman Dick Weaver along railroad tracks in Marion, NC. The flat evergreen rosettes have fuzzy leaves and beautiful blush pink to white daises. This plant forms a tight mat making it a fabulous native ground cover. It blooms in late spring and the perfect condition is average-to-dry soils in light shade. This is an awesome native plant and very easy to grow.

\$15

10 in.

1 gallon Pot

Part Sun to Light Shade

Zones 5a - 9

Hampton-Preston Mansion



Eucomis

“Pineapple Lily”

Eucomis is a tropical-looking perennial native of South Africa. The plant is called a pineapple lily because of the tall inflorescence and spiky tops that resemble pineapple fruit. Rich, burgundy leaves emerge in spring, and by summer, the leaves have faded. It produces rosy pink flowers on dark burgundy stems. This native of South Africa is a must-grow not only because of the inflorescence at the top of the flower scape but also for its colorful leaves in the spring.

\$20

3 - 4 ft.

1 gallon Pot

Full Sun to Part Shade

Zones 6 - 9

Hampton-Preston Mansion



Ficus carica

“White Marseilles Fig”

The white Marseilles fig is a large, deciduous shrub or tree. Brought to the United States from France by Thomas Jefferson in the late 1700s, it is rumored to be Jefferson’s favorite fig. This low-maintenance plant needs to be in full sun, well-drained, moist soil. It has a vigorous shoot growth rate and fruit production. It produces on new wood so pruning yearly will help maintain its shape in early spring.

\$15

12 ft.

1 gallon Pot

Full Sun to Part Shade

Zones 6 - 9

Hampton-Preston Mansion



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Ficus tikoua

“Waihapu Fig”

Deciduous ground cover with deep green, scratchy foliage. Great to plant near walkways, under tree canopy, or other shady, hard-to-grow areas. Prune as needed to control growth and spread.

\$ \$15
10 in. Spreading

1 gallon Pot
Part Shade to Shade

Zones 8 - 11
Hampton-Preston Mansion



Habranthus robustus

“Pink Rain Lily”

The pink rain lily is a small yet beautiful Amaryllis with pink flowers and yellow anthers. This plant is a native to Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay, but it has naturalized in many mild areas around the world. It can be grown effortlessly from seed or can be easily divided. Typically, the flowers emerge following a rain (or watering) in mid-summer. Its foliage is thin and linear. *Habranthus robustus* is one of the most beautiful of the rain lilies and will quickly clump to form a large flowering mat. To do this, ensure it has rich, loose, free-draining soil. This plant is very easy to grow, and it does well in part to full sun.

\$ \$10
9 in.

4 in. Pot
Full Sun to Part Sun

Zones 7b - 9b
Seibels House



Hydrangea quercifolia

“Oakleaf Hydrangea”

This plant is native to the southeastern United States where it prefers moist woods and stream banks. The species name shows the similarity of its leaves to an oak tree (*Quercus*). It can grow 8 feet in height and 6 feet in width. The white panicles of flowers turn pink, then fade to brown. This plant has reddish-brown exfoliating bark and adds fall color to the garden. This plant blooms on old wood; prune, if needed, immediately after flowering.

\$ \$15
6 - 8 ft.

1 gallon Pot
Full Sun to Part Shade

Zones 5 - 9
Seibels House



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Hymenocallis caribaea 'Tropical Giant'

"Spider Lily"

This old garden hybrid can often be found in abandoned home sites in the South. Spider lilies have glossy green, amaryllis-like foliage and form impressive clumps that can tolerate drought or wet conditions. Make sure this plant has plenty of space to spread out and show off its sweetly fragrant, white spider-like flowers in the summer. The small daffodil-like cup is highlighted with long white extensions that resemble spider-like shapes.

\$ \$15

26 in.

1 gallon Pot

Full Sun to Part Sun

Zones 7b - 10

Seibels House



Hypericum calycinum 'Brigadoon'

"St. John's Wort"

A unique yellow-leaved ground cover that creates dense weed-proof patch and especially useful for stabilizing slopes and outstanding when planted among large shrubs and trees. Mostly evergreen and drought tolerant once established. It can tolerate a wide variety of situations from poor to sandy to compacted soils. Originally from southeast Europe and parts of Asia Minor. We have had success with this in dappled light throughout the day.

\$ \$15

12 in. Spreading

1 gallon Pot

Full Sun to Part Sun

Zones 5 - 9

Hampton-Preston Mansion



Hypericum lissophloeus

"Smooth-Barked St. John's Wort"

Hypericum lissophloeus, commonly known as smooth-barked St. John's wort, is a narrow, upright, sparsely branched, asparagus-like evergreen shrub with a tree-like character. It typically grows to 6 to 10 feet tall and 3 to 5 feet wide, with beautiful exfoliating chocolate colored bark. It is native to well-drained sandy soils on the slopes and margins of sink hole ponds and lakes in an area of xeric uplands in Bay and Washington counties on the Florida panhandle. It is listed as an endangered species in the state of Florida.

\$ \$15

Up to 10 ft.

1 gallon Pot

Full Sun

Zones 7 - 9

Hampton-Preston Mansion



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Iris confusa 'Chengdu'

“Bamboo Iris”

Need an easy and pretty perennial ground cover for your shady yard? The distinctive, tropical-looking, and evergreen *Iris confusa* ‘Chengdu’ is a great choice! Forming dense clumps of strappy rich green leaves held in fans, this plant is topped with exquisite, vanilla-scented, 2.5-inch ornately marked lavender blooms for several months in spring. This plant spreads happily by rhizomes and can fill a good-sized area.

\$15

2 - 3 ft.

1 gallon Pot

Part Sun to Shade

Zones 7 - 11

Hampton-Preston Mansion



Iris domestica

“Blackberry Lily”

Thomas Jefferson first acquired this seed in 1807 during his second term as President of the United States. It was sown in an east front oval flowerbed at Monticello. Today, the blackberry lilies found around Monticello are believed to be descendants of Jefferson's original plantings. Our blackberry lily plants are propagated from seed collected at Monticello. Besides its interesting history in the United States, this plant is tough and can tolerate full sun and drought. The flower is a charming orange with red speckles and looks great in summer flower arrangements.

\$15

2 - 4 ft.

1 gallon Pot

Full Sun

Zones 5 - 10

Woodrow Wilson Family Home



Iris tridentata

“Savannah Iris”

This purple flowering iris is native to five states in the southeastern United States. It has showy purple flowers that appear from May to June and spreads through rhizomes. This plant is native to boggy soils but will grow in drier conditions. For best results, do not let this plant stay dry for too long.

\$15

18 in.

1 gallon Pot

Full Sun to Part Shade

Zones 7 - 10

Robert Mills House



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Kniphofia uvaria

“Red Hot Poker”

The common name refers to the resemblance of each flower spike to a red-hot poker or torch. This is a repeat blooming cultivar that has showy spikes of drooping, tubular, orange-yellow flowers that bloom in spring and fall. This perennial is native to South Africa and has semi-evergreen, grass-like leaves. Buds and emerging flowers are red but mature to yellow, giving each spike a two-toned appearance.

\$15

1 gallon Pot

Zones 6 - 9

2 - 3 ft.

Full Sun

Seibels House



Piper auritum

“Root Beer Plant”

The flavors of this plant are complex and aromatic, with notes of sassafras, anise seed, wintergreen, and pepper. In Mexico, the plant is known as *hoja santa* or “sacred leaf.” Chefs work the peppery leaves into a variety of dishes, such as grinding them and adding them to mole verde, shredding them for use as a seasoning in soups and egg dishes, or simply using them as an aromatic wrapper for tamales.

\$15

1 gallon Pot

Zones 8 - 11

3 - 8 ft.

Sun to Shade

Hampton-Preston Mansion



Phyla nodiflora

“Frogfruit”

Frogfruit is an excellent native ground cover and can be semi-evergreen in protected areas. It spreads vigorously and can grow in a wide range of conditions. This dense, carpeting plant makes a serviceable ground cover or lawn-like replacement, tolerating moderate foot traffic and occasional mowing. The blooms are not only charming but also a great provider of good nectar for butterflies and other pollinators. It is an attractive plant rambling over boulders or the edges of hanging baskets. It also can tolerate drought and flooding.

\$15

1 gallon Pot

Zones 7 - 11

9 in. Spreading

Full Sun to Part Shade

Seibels House



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Prunus mume 'Kobai'

“Japanese Apricot”

The flowering Japanese apricot is a small ornamental deciduous tree that can get close to 20 feet in height. In January and February, the tree is filled with beautiful fragrant bright pink flowers that bring excitement during cold winter days. The leaves emerge in spring and fuzzy-skinned fruits appear that can be harvested during the early summer. It is native to China and is typically found in woods and rocky hills. The flowering Japanese apricot is an important tree in Chinese culture and has been cultivated for more than 1500 years. This tree prefers full sun to partial shade and moist, acidic, loamy soils. They are best planted in protected areas so that the winter cold will not damage the flowers.

\$25

15 - 20 ft.

1 gallon Pot

Full Sun to Part Shade

Zones 6a - 9b

Hampton-Preston Mansion



Ruellia simplex

“Mexican Petunia”

Mexican petunia is a Central and South American native that performs best in full sun but can tolerate a wide variety of conditions. The plant typically grows to 3 to 4 feet tall in the wild, but only to 2 or 3 feet tall in gardens. It has linear, dark green leaves that may be tinged with purple. The flowers are petunia-like, lavender to violet, and blooms start in summer and continue into fall. This plant can be grown in a container or planted in the garden.

\$15

3 - 4 ft.

1 gallon Pot

Full Sun to Part Shade

Zones 8 - 10

Seibels House



Sedum mexicanum 'Lemon Ball'

“Lemon Ball Sedum”

Lemon ball sedum is native to Mexico and can handle lots of sun and drought. This soft, golden, and rubbery plant is evergreen and creates a fun color and texture in the garden. It loves heat, and in the summer, it has bright yellow flowers on top of the perfect lemon mounds. This awesome plant would work well as a ground cover, in containers, rock gardens, or on the border of a perennial garden.

\$10

6 in.

4 in. Pot

Full Sun

Zones 7b - 9b

Seibels House



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Stokesia laevis

“Stokes’ Aster”

Stokesia laevis, commonly known as “Stokes’ Aster,” is native to the southeastern United States. It is an evergreen perennial that typically grows around 2 feet tall. This plant has striking blooms that are fluffy, cornflower-like, violet blue. It has deep green rubber foliage and a round upright shape.

 **\$15**
 **2 ft.**

 **1 gallon Pot**
 **Full Sun**

 **Zones 5 - 9**
 **Hampton-Preston Mansion**

Propagating HC Favorites

At our semi-annual plant sales, we take pride in offering a selection of plants that thrive in our local environment. All the plants are propagated from our very own gardens, ensuring they are well-suited for our area’s unique climate and conditions. Propagating plants from our gardens is not only beneficial for local adaptability but also promotes sustainable garden practices. By reducing the need for importing plants, we help minimize the environmental impact of our gardening efforts. The three propagation methods we use are **division**, **stem cuttings**, and **seed collection**.

Division is a propagation method that involves splitting a mature plant into several sections, each with its own root system. This is ideal for plants like the “**Stokes’ Aster**” (above) or other flowering perennials. By dividing these plants, we not only rejuvenate them but also multiply our stock for the sale.

Taking **stem cuttings** from parent plants and encouraging them to root is a common practice we use for many of our plants. This process takes place in the Boyd Horticultural Center (BHC) where we have a misting system that helps keep cuttings moist 24 hours a day. The “**Root Beer Plant**” (page 8) and the “**Mexican Tree Dahlia**” (page 2) both work well from stem cuttings.



Water misting station at Boyd Horticultural Center.



A variety of propagated plants in the Boyd Horticultural Center.

Growing plants from seed is crucial for long term health and resilience of plant species. We carefully collect seeds from our healthiest plants. The “**Blackberry Lily**” (page 7) is collected from seed each year and stored in the refrigerator for 3 weeks before we sow them in trays in the Boyd Horticultural Center.

Each of these propagation methods requires time, care, and expertise. Our team works tirelessly throughout the year to ensure that every plant we offer at our sale is of the highest quality.



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Join us for a celebration of history and diversity in gardening, featuring a stunning array of heirloom fruits, vegetables, and herbs. Explore unique varieties with rich flavors and vibrant colors, perfect for adding a touch of nostalgia to your garden... and your table! **All Heirloom Edible and Annual Flowers are \$5 each.**

What are heirloom plants?

Heirloom plants are varieties of plants that have been passed down through generations of a family or community, often because of their valued characteristics such as flavor, adaptability, or historical significance. These plants are open-pollinated, meaning they are pollinated by natural mechanisms like insects or wind, and their seeds can be saved and grown true to type year after year. Heirloom plants are often prized for their genetic diversity and unique traits compared to modern hybrid varieties.

Growing details can be found on page 13.

Heirloom Tomatoes & Peppers



“Black Cherry Tomato”

Solanum lycopersicum
Grape sized purple-brown tomato with great classic rich flavor.

“Black Krim Tomato”

Solanum lycopersicum
Juicy dark red-purple fruit, rich sweet flavor. This Russian heirloom produces large juicy beefsteaks to 1 pound.

“Black Plum Tomato”

Solanum lycopersicum
From Russian seed seller Marina Danilenko. Produces elongated, oval, plum-shaped fruits with a beautiful deep-mahogany color.



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“Brad’s Atomic Grape Tomato”

Solanum lycopersicum

Produces clusters of small, elongated fruit with purple striping when immature, ripening to green-red with indigo stripes and deliciously sweet.



“Brandywine Tomato”

Solanum lycopersicum

Named after the Brandywine Creek in Pennsylvania, this variety was introduced in 1889. It is a dependable historic heirloom that produces deep red fruits with excellent flavor.



“Cherokee Purple Tomato”

Solanum lycopersicum

A very large, purple-pink fruit with sweet flavor. An old Cherokee Indian heirloom, pre-1890 variety with real old-time tomato taste.



“Dr. Wyche’s Yellow Tomato”

Solanum lycopersicum

One pound, bright tangerine-orange fruit with a sweet taste.



“Green Tiger Tomato”

Solanum lycopersicum

Elongated cherry-plum tomatoes with crack-resistant fruit. Around two inches in length, tapering to a point. Color is an amazing green and yellow striping, with a lime-green interior.



“Kellogg’s Breakfast Tomato”

Solanum lycopersicum

Large and productive beefsteak, this variety bears orange fruit that weighs 1 to 2 pounds with rich flavor.



Spring Plant Sale



“Moonglow Tomato”

Solanum lycopersicum

Bright orange globes with a mildly sweet flavor.

Growing Details



Soil: Most annual heirloom plants prefer well-draining soil rich in organic matter. Amend the soil with compost before planting to improve its texture and fertility.



Sunlight: Most of the available annual plants require full sun, which means at least 6-8 hours of direct sunlight per day.



Watering: Water regularly, keeping the soil consistently moist but not waterlogged. Avoid overhead watering, as it can promote fungal diseases.



Temperature: Heirloom plants have varying temperature preferences. Some plants, like tomatoes and peppers, thrive in warm temperatures, while others, like peas, prefer cooler weather.



Spacing: Proper spacing is important to allow air circulation and prevent overcrowding.



Mulching: Mulching can help conserve moisture, suppress weeds, and regulate soil temperature. Use organic mulches like straw or leaves.



Fertilizing: Heirloom plants benefit from regular fertilization.



Support: Some heirloom plants, like tomatoes and peas, may require support as they grow. Use stakes, cages, or trellises to keep plants upright and improve air circulation.



Harvesting: Harvest crops regularly to encourage continued production.



“Buran Pepper”

Capiscum annum

A 2-foot-tall plant that produces sweet, red elongated peppers. You can eat them when they are green or let them fade to red.



“Fish Pepper”

Capiscum annum

This medium-hot heat heirloom may have originated in Mexico or the Caribbean. Noted to have been cultivated by enslaved Africans, it was a popular ingredient in some Black communities in nineteenth-century America.



“Hinkelhatz Pepper”

Capiscum annum

Traditionally used for pickling. Small fruits ripen from green to bright red. It was cultivated by the Pennsylvania Dutch since the mid-1880s. The name translates as chicken heart. Hot!



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“Miniature Yellow Bell Pepper”

Capiscum annuum

Sweet and stocky plant with miniature bell peppers with an excellent fresh flavor that is great for salads.



“Traveler Strain Jalapeno Pepper”

Capiscum annuum

Fruits ripen from green to red. Hot!

Growing Seeds in the Boyd Horticultural Center

HC carefully selects seeds from reputable suppliers, ensuring they are well-suited for our local climate and soil conditions. With gentle hands and meticulous care, we sow the seeds into trays filled with nutrient-rich soil, labeling each tray with the plant variety and sowing date. BHC provides the perfect environment for seed germination, with controlled temperature and humidity levels. We monitor the trays daily, ensuring that each seedling receives the right amount of water and light.



Other Edibles



“Black Beauty Eggplant”

Solanum melongena

This 1902 Burpee heirloom introduction was an immediate hit because the fruit ripens dramatically earlier than other varieties. Dark purple eggplants have a classic bell shape. Harvest when skin is glossy.



“Clemson Spineless”

Abelmoschus esculentus

Introduced by Clemson University dating back to the 1930s. Still the most popular open-pollinated variety on the market. Exceptionally uniform, deep green ribbed and spineless pods are best harvested when 3 inches long.



“Cow Horn Okra”

Abelmoschus esculentus cv.

Highly ornamental plant with tropical leaves and a beautiful flower. This southern heirloom has uniquely curved fruit and has been grown in America since the 1700s.



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“Cumin”

Cuminum cyminum

Low growing and self-seeding annual reaches less than a foot in height. Seeds are collected and used for soups, curry, pastries, and more!



“Genovese Basil”

Ocimum basilicum

Classic large-leaved Italian sweet basil, perfect for pesto.



“Golden Sweet Pea”

Pisum sativum

This seed was collected at a market in India. The 6-foot tall plant produces beautiful purple flowers and bright yellow pods. Pods are best eaten when small.



“Long Purple Eggplant”

Solanum melongena

Prolific Italian style eggplant with glossy purple skin and white flesh. Mild flavor is perfect for slicing and using in an Italian or Asian recipe!



“Long white of Palermo Zucchini”

Cucurbita pepo

Heirloom from Palermo, Sicily, that is famous for its buttery soft nutty flavor in Italian cuisine. The light green speckled fruits grow to be 12-15 inches long.



“Painted Serpent Cucumber”

Cucumis sativus

Long and curvy striped heirloom cucumbers with crispy-sweet flesh that is never bitter. The vigorous vines will reward you with heavy yields of delicious, unusual crunchy cukes.



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“Provider Bean”

Phaseolus vulgaris

Most dependable early green bean. The round straight pods offer excellent flavor and easy to grow. Introduced by Horticulturist Dr. Hoffman in 1965 at U.S. vegetable laboratory in South Carolina.



“Queen Anne’s Pocket Melon”

Cucumis melo dudaim

Though the fruits are edible, it is typically grown for its unique character and wonderful fragrance. This Persian trailing plant has been grown for over 1,000 years.



“Round Zucchini”

Cucurbita pepo

Adorable round zucchini that’s grows as a compact bush. Best when harvested when baseball size.



“Silver Slicer White Cucumber”

Cucumis sativus

Cucumber with white skin, wonderful crisp clean flavor, and great production.



“Suyo Long Cucumber”

Cucumis sativus

A productive heirloom from northern China. Long ribbed 18-inch fruit. Mild flavor, slightly sweet, and burpless.



“Violette de Provence Artichoke”

Cynara cardunculus var. *scolymus*

French heirloom with dramatic purple blooms that become purple globes. This plant will remain productive for at least three years.



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The annual flowers featured in the Spring Plant Sale include a variety of heirlooms whose lineage can be traced back for centuries in America. **All Annual Flowers are \$5 each.**

Why is it important to grow heirloom plants?

1. Genetic Diversity: Heirloom plants help maintain genetic diversity in our food supply. They often have unique traits that can be valuable for future breeding efforts, especially in the face of climate change and environmental challenges.
2. Preservation of Heritage: Heirloom plants have historical and cultural significance. They are a link to our agricultural heritage and help preserve traditional farming practices and knowledge.
3. Flavor and Nutrition: Many heirloom varieties are prized for their superior flavor and nutritional content compared to modern hybrids, which are often bred for traits like shelf life and uniform appearance.
4. Environmental Sustainability: Heirloom plants are often well adapted to local growing conditions. They can also be part of sustainable gardening practices, such as seed saving and organic gardening.
5. Support for Local Economies: Growing heirloom plants can support local economies by promoting small-scale agriculture and seed saving initiatives, which can help preserve regional food traditions.

Growing details can be found on page 13.



“Bachelor’s Button”

Centaurea cyanus

Small blue flowers with a round, thistle-like shape. Late spring to early summer bloomer not only provides striking color for the garden, but they also provide food for pollinators.



“Castor Bean”

Ricinus communis

With tropical-looking leaves and unusual seed pods, the castor bean is an exotic addition to the ornamental garden.



“Evening Sun Sunflower”

Helianthus annuus

The 7-foot plant produces many bronze, burgundy, crimson, and yellow flowers.



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“French Mallow”

Malva sylvestris

This plant was on Thomas Jefferson’s flower list from 1806. A European native with handsome, hollyhock-like purplish-pink flowers.



“Lemon Queen Sunflower”

Helianthus annuus

Produces multiple blooms with lemon-yellow petals and a dark chocolate center. Grows 7-8 feet tall.



“Love-in-a-Mist”

Nigella damascene

This plant has been growing in gardens since the late 16th century. It is a self-seeding annual produces beautiful blue, white, and pink flowers with lacy foliage.



“Love-Lies-Bleeding”

Amaranthus caudatus

This plant was on Thomas Jefferson’s list of flowers from 1806. It is a unique summer annual with cascading red flowers. Great for flower arrangements! Grows 4-5 feet tall.



“Perennial Pea”

Lathyrus latifolius

This vine was an established garden plant in America before 1720. It is a long-lived vigorous climber with blue green leaves with red and pink showy flowers.



“Pink-spiked Celosia”

Celosia argentea var. *spicata*

Beautiful light pink flower spikes in the summer that are great for floral design.



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“White Cypress Vine”

Ipomoea quamoclit

This white flowering vine has lacy leaves and is wonderful for hummingbirds.



“Zinnia Dahliah Mix”

Zinnia elegans

Semi-double and double blooms that bloom throughout the summer season. Like all zinnias, this variety is extremely easy to grow, deer resistant, and attractive to pollinators.



“Zinnia Historic Columbia Mix”

Zinnia elegans

This is a special zinnia mix that is grown and harvested from the gardens of HC. This mix is filled with pink, red, white, and orange blooms.



“Zinnia Whirligig Mix”

Zinnia elegans

Bright bi-color blooms that will last most of the summer. It is great for flower arranging and attracting beneficial insects.

About Historic Columbia

In November 1961, a small group of citizens intent on saving the Ainsley Hall House from demolition officially incorporated as Historic Columbia. Over the next five decades, the organization, which was founded on the premise of preservation and education, would take on the stewardship of seven historic properties in Richland County. Today, Historic Columbia shares the complex history of Columbia and Richland County through historic preservation advocacy, innovative educational programs, and strategic partnerships.

Explore Historic Columbia’s Grounds and Gardens

Our 14 acres of landscapes in the heart of Robert Mills Historic District are free and open to the public. Come take a stroll or enjoy a picnic at HC!

Hampton-Preston

1615 Blanding St.
Tues. – Sat., 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sun., 1 – 4 p.m.

Seibels House

1601 Richland St.
Tues. – Fri., 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Woodrow Wilson Family Home

1705 Hampton St.
Tues. – Sat., 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sun., 1 – 4 p.m.

Robert Mills

1616 Blanding St.
Tues. – Sat., 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sun., 1 – 4 p.m.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE