

Castle Gardens and Plantings



Historic Lawns and Garden

When Tom and Olive Plant made this site their home in 1914, the lawns around the Lucknow Mansion had only minimal plantings. Historic photos taken in the 1910s and 1920s show only wild grasses and irises around the pond and some flowers in the turret planters. The front of the house was landscaped with pines.

The dramatic flower gardens one might expect at a home such as this covered the slope below the lakeside lawn. Olive greatly enjoyed overseeing these gardens and her greenhouse – a 100 foot, curved glass structure designed by the Lord and Burnham Company of New York. We hope, in future years, to recreate some of Olive’s gardens.



Photos by George Perry, ca. 1924. Castle collection.

Modern Gardens

Today, our gardens must strike a balance between historic integrity and modern use. Because our site is enjoyed by the public on a daily basis, and occasionally used for weddings and events, our gardens are filled to ensure beautiful blooms no matter the season. Below, you can learn more about the variety of plants found in our gardens.



Planting photos and content courtesy of Janine Brothers, assisted by Gretchen Large.

Full Sun Garden Plantings

Achillea filipendulina (Coronation Gold Yarrow, Sneezewort)

A natural coagulant, this plant was once carried by Greek and Roman soldiers into battle to treat wounds. This perennial grows up to 3' tall, likes full sun, and attracts butterflies.



Agastache rugosa (Korean mint hyssop)

An herbaceous perennial with eye-catching purple flower spikes. This plant can grow up to 4' tall and blooms from mid-summer to early fall.



Aster novi-belgii (Wood's Blue Aster)

A very durable and long-lived perennial loved by bees and butterflies. Typically grows 8-12" and blooms early to late fall. Does well in mostly sunny areas.



Centaurea Montana (Bachelor's Button, Mountain Bluet)

A perennial with showy, violet-blue flowers that blooms late spring in sun. Often will bloom again in the fall if cut back right after its first blooming period.



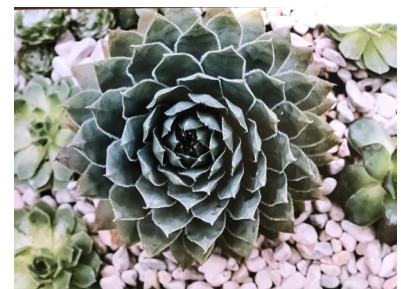
Delphinium

An elegant perennial that blooms early to midsummer, and often blooms again late summer to early fall.



Echeveria (Hens & Chicks)

A drought-tolerant and sun-loving perennial succulent.



Full Sun Garden Plantings

Echinacea pallida (Coneflower)

A hardy perennial with brightly colored blossoms that can grow up to 4'. This long bloomer (spring through fall) attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.



Echinops ritro (Globe thistle, 'Veitch's Blue')

A full sun perennial that blooms in late summer with showy, iridescent blue flowers that are beautiful for arrangements.



Eryngium planum (Sea holly)

Low-maintenance perennials with blue flowers. Grows to 1' and blooms July to October. This plant also attracts bees.



Foeniculum vulgare (Fennel)

A tender, sun-loving perennial herb in the carrot family. It attracts parsley worms which turn into black swallowtail butterflies, which are good pollinators.



Geranium macrorrhizum (Bevan's Variety geranium)

An herbaceous perennial that forms groundcover for shady areas. Blooms late spring to mid-summer with rose-red flowers.



Hemerocallis (Daylily 'Happy Returns')

A showy perennial that blooms non-stop from May to frost. This plant can grow 12-36" tall.



Full Sun Garden Plantings

Iris ensata (Japanese Iris 'Pink Lady')

A showy perennial that does well in full sun. Blooming in summer, this plant attracts bees.



Macleaya cordata (Plume Poppy)

An imposingly tall perennial that grows up to 8' with dinner-plate sized gray-green leaves. Blooms with tiny white flowers in early July. Known to be toxic, its best to wear gloves when tending.



Paeonia (Red Peony)

Native to Asia, Europe, and Western North America, there are over 30 known species of peonies. Peonies are lovely, flowering perennials.



Perovskia atriplicifolia (Salvia yangii, Russian Sage)

A drought-tolerant, herbaceous perennial that needs full sun to bloom well. Blooms into fall with lavender blue flowers that are a magnet for butterflies.



Phlox paniculata (Garden Phlox 'Bright Eyes')

An herbaceous perennial that grows in sun and can reach 2-4' tall. This plant attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.



Phlox paniculata (Garden Phlox 'David')

An herbaceous perennial that grows in sun and can reach 36-40" tall. Blooms from early to midsummer and attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.



Full Sun Garden Plantings

Rosa kordesii (William Baffin Rose)

A sturdy, climbing rose that blooms in late June and is exceptionally vigorous. Will often bloom again well into fall.



Salvia verticillata (Purple Rain, lilac sage)

This herbaceous perennial is a pollinator magnet! Typically growing 18-24" tall, this plant blooms from June to September with velvety purple flowers.



Stachys byzantine (Lamb's Ears 'Helen Von Stein')

Large leaved ground cover and edging plant with soft silver green foliage that seldom flowers.



Sun to Partial Shade Plantings

Ajuga reptans (Pink Lightning Ajuga)

A hardy groundcover plant that blooms mid- to late-spring.



Ajuga reptans (Silver Queen Ajuga)

An attractive groundcover that blooms with blue flower spikes in spring and early summer.



Alchemilla mollis (Lady's Mantle)

An attractive, low-growing plant requiring little care. In late spring and early summer, it produces lovely chartreuse blooms. It thrives in sun or shade.



Sun to Partial Shade Plantings

Baptisia australis (False Indigo)

Grows in sun and part shade. Can grow up to 4' tall with deep blue flowers that bloom in the spring. Because of its deep tap root, this plant is very difficult to transplant.



Baptisia sphaerocarpa (Yellow wild indigo)

Bright yellow flowers up to 1" long bloom on the upper part of the stem in spring.



Chrysanthemum

A popular garden flower that blooms in the fall in sun or part shade.



Clematis tangutica (Golden Bell Clematis)

Vigorous vine with 1-2" yellow bell-like flowers from mid-summer through October. Grows in full sun to part shade. It attracts butterflies, hummingbirds, and bees.



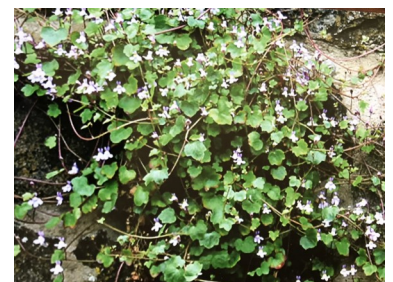
Crocosmia (Coppertips)

A member of the iris family that blooms mid-summer through fall in full sun to part-shade.



Cymbalaria muralis (Kenilworth Ivy)

Affectionately deemed the "Castle Creeper" by our gardeners, this plant climbs walls and cracks. Blooms in summer in partial shade.



Sun to Partial Shade Plantings

Eupatorium rugosum (Joe Pye Weed, Chocolate)

An easy to grow variety of Joe Pye Weed that adds fragrant white flowers to the late summer garden. Does well in sun or shade.



Geranium Brookside (Cranesbill)

A deciduous perennial that reaches 18-24" in height. Blooms late spring to mid-summer in sun to part shade.



Geranium Rozanne (Cranesbill)

A perennial that can reach 20" and blooms summer to late fall.



Heuchera (Wild Rose)

An easy to grow perennial that thrives in sun or shade. This plant attracts hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees.



Hylotelephium telephium (Autumn Joy Sedum)

A beautiful, hardy and reliable perennial that grows both in full sun and part shade. Blooms late summer to mid-fall with flowers transitioning from pink, to rose, to red before frost.



Iris Sibirica (Dwarf Siberian Iris)

An herbaceous perennial that performs well in sun and part shade. Bloom late spring to early summer.



Sun to Partial Shade Plantings

Sanguisorba hakusanensis (Korean Burnet, Lilac Squirrel)

Grows 24-30" with nodding, fuzzy flower spikes that bloom July and August in full to part shade.



Stachys Byzantina Lantana (Lamb's Ears)

An herbaceous perennial in the mint family that does well in sun or shade. Popular with hummingbirds and bees; one species of bee collects the fuzz off the leaves to use for making nests in decayed trees.



Shade Garden Plantings

Aconitum napellus (Monkshood, Wolfsbane)

A tall, shade-loving plant that blooms mid to late summer. It is toxic so garden carefully with gloves!



Ajuga reptans (Burgundy Glow Ajuga)

Known as "carpenter's herb" for its supposed ability to stem bleeding. A beautiful tri-colored foliage with perky blue flower spikes that bloom June to August in partial to full shade.



Aralia cordata (Sun king)

A bold and beautiful anchor plant for the shady garden. Native to the far east, it grows 3 to 6 feet tall and wide, with small white flowers on panicles which can reach 1 ½ feet in length. Blooms July to September.



Chelone glabra (Turtlehead)

A hardy perennial that grows 2-3' in part shade with whitish-pink flowers. Blooms August through October. Attracts hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees.



Shade Garden Plantings

Cimicifuga racemosa (Bugbane; Black snake root)

A tall, shade-loving herbaceous perennial with wispy plumes of tiny star-like flowers which tower up to 8' tall. Blooms mid to late summer.



Heuchera americana (Coral Bells)

A perennial foliage plant native to North America that prefers semi-shade. Blooms late spring to mid-summer and again fall to frost.



Hosta (Francee)

A shade-tolerant perennial that produces large lavender flowers in early summer.



Hosta (Golden Tiara)

A sturdy and vigorous perennial perfect for ground cover and edging in part shade. Purple blue flowers appear mid-summer and need to be cut back after blooming.



Kirengeshoma palmate (Yellow wax bells)

An herbaceous perennial native to Japan and Korea, prized as one of the most interesting and dramatic plants for shade. Blooms late summer to early fall.



Polemonium caeruleum (Jacob's Ladder)

A shade-loving perennial that grows 1-3' with loose clusters of blue, bell-like flowers. Blooms spring to summer.



Shade Garden Plantings

Pulmonaria (Lungworts)

A perennial landscape flower named for its spotted leaves shaped like lungs. Blooms early spring in shady locations.



Rodgersia pinnata

An East Asian genus grown for the large, leathery leaves, early-summer flowers, and tolerance for shade and damp soil.



Annuals

The annuals used in the Castle gardens vary from year to year depending on availability. The plantings listed below are a sample of those used in past years.

Angelonia (Serena)

A long-blooming, sun-loving annual that does not require dead-heading. Growing to 12", it is perfect for containers.



Cleome hassleriana (Rose Queen Spider Flower)

An annual that blooms in sun from June to September.



Dianthus chinensis (Super Parfait™ Raspberry Pink)

Eye-catching scarlet-pink flowers with crimson centers. Blooms in sun from spring to early summer.



Annuals

Gomphrena globosa (Ping Pong Purple)

A low-maintenance, drought-tolerant plant that blooms with small, ball-shaped blossoms from July to October.



Scaevola aemula

A vigorous, trailing annual plant that blooms spring through fall in full to partial sun.



Senecio cineraria (Dusty Miller)

An easy to grow annual that thrives in sun and tolerates shade. Loved for its reliable silvery foliage, it flowers with small, yellow blooms in midsummer.



Verbena bonariensis (Purpletop vervain)

A fast growing, tall (3-6') plant with lilac flowers atop long stems that sway gracefully in the summer breeze. Blooms from early summer to fall and is loved by butterflies and hummingbirds.



Key



Plant attracts butterflies



Plant attracts bees



Plant attracts hummingbirds