



Mission: Plant-Possible

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to find all of the different plant species below located around your Akron Zoo. Bring your completed scavenger hunt form to the office located in the Barnhardt Family Welcome Center and receive your passport stamp. Return each season to complete the next mission and fill your passport book to be entered into a drawing! The more stamps you have, the more chances you have to win a prize!

1. Native to Ohio and deer resistant, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators love this spring bloomer! The red and yellow bell-shaped flowers have deep nectaries (a plant gland that produces a sugar rich liquid) that are the perfect shape for hummingbirds and insects with long tongues. The seeds from these plants were used by Native Americans to treat fevers, rashes, headaches, sore throats and act as love charms.

Location: Legends of the Wild

2. With its bright yellow flower, this shrub is a genus of flower plants found in the Olive family and is native to Asia and Europe. Also referred to as Golden Bell, the flowers contain four petals and are bell-shaped. Shrubs can reach 10' tall and 15' wide, they are one of the fastest growing shrubs to exist, growing up to 24" a year!

Location: Legends of the Wild

3. With its compound leaf structure, this plant looks right out of a Jurassic Forest and into your landscaping. Hailing originally from Siberia, Manchuria, China, Korea, and Japan, this medium sized shrub has adapted to our climates and thrives. Around June is when you can expect to see its beautiful conical white flowers, usually covered with pollinating insects.

Location: Legends of the Wild

4. One of the first trees to flower in the spring, this 20 to 25' tall tree has tight, small clusters of star-shaped yellow flowers. Mid-summer red berries develop and mature. As the tree matures, the bark becomes scaly and exfoliates. The red fruits are edible and taste like tart cherries and are high in Vitamin C.

Location: Legends of the Wild

5. Ranging from simple single-colored petals, to frilled petals with various colors on one plant, this flower can give a lot of diversity for spring color. Although the blooms only last for about a week, you can get longer color in your flower bed by planting early bloomer, regular, and late blooming bulbs. Deer love the taste of these blooms, so be sure to keep a look out!

Location: Carousel Plaza

6. Native to the eastern Mediterranean, southern Turkey and Africa, this fragrant spring bloomer is approximately 6-12" and comes in whites, yellows, blues, purples, peaches, pinks and red. It is a member of the Asparagus family, but contains oxalic acid which makes it inedible. Legend has it that this plant is named after the Greek God Hyacinthos.

Location: Wild Prairie

7. A short but bright spring flower that gives pops of purples, whites, and oranges. They are adapted for spring's unpredictable weather by a few adaptations. Most of their stems remain underground and their flowers close at night or during windy conditions. This is to help the plant keep in the heat it has accumulated during the day.

Location: Monarch Weigh Station

8. These trees are generally on the smaller side ranging from 10-15' tall, although some will reach 30'. Native to woodland areas, these trees produce beautiful pink (sometimes white) flowers to go with their glossy heart shape leaves. Their flowers produce one of the earliest sources of nectar in the spring for pollinators – bees and butterflies love them! The flowers are also edible, can be sprinkled in salads, used as a garnish or even baked into cakes.

Location: Monarch Weigh Station

9. A favorite for the horticulturists at the Akron Zoo, it is one of the first flowers to bloom; the petals range in various colors and patterns. They give nice color in shady areas, and their blooms can last up to a few weeks. The flowers droop down at an angle but this is normal. This is an adaptation to help them against the varying springtime weather. The drooping helps protect the flower and pollen grains from wind, rain, and snow.

Location: Frontier Town

10. As the name suggests, this plant is native to both Korea and Japan. This species, like most, grows in a multi stemmed orientation. However, this particular plant is most notably recognized by it's extremely showy flowers and transcendent fragrance that are produced in early to mid-spring. It will reach up to 6.5' tall in maturity, with a spread of around 7'.

Location: Frontier Town _____

11. A part of the rose family, this plant was originally found in Asia, but has been cultivated and introduced as a common landscape addition. It is commonly used as a hedge or boarder plant but is equally impressive as a centerpiece due to its beautiful blooms that can be seen in late winter and early spring. Although not commonly grown as a crop, its medium apple-like fruit can be used in preserves and liqueurs. Some species can get up to 10', but most will stay rather small and only reach around 4 to 5' in height.

Location: Gardens _____

12. A staple in many flower beds for spring color. It has triangular petals that can vary from yellow to white, with an orange or yellow center. A mistake people often make with these plants is when they should cut them back. It is important to not cut back the leaves until they are yellow or brown. While the leaves are green, even though the flowers are done, they are gaining and storing energy for next year's growth.

Locations: Gardens _____

13. Native to North America, the seeds of this species, like common apples, will still provide trace amounts of cyanide. However, the fruit has been historically used in jams, jellies, and even ciders. These trees bloom in magnificent colors from April to June. On the small to medium size, they can reach a mature size of 15 to 20' tall with a spread of 12 to 20'.

Location: Wild Prairie _____

14. A multi-stem bush with fragrant flowers that bloom in late winter to early spring. The base of the petal is a deep red-orange, as the petal elongates, it turns to a yellow-gold color. The petals are thin and appear somewhat crinkled. On colder days the petals will curl up to prevent damage from low temperatures. There is a native version of this plant that blooms in late fall.

Location: Wild Asia _____

15. Originally native to Europe, this plant is widely available and equally popular spring garden flower. Blooming in late March and into April, it produces a sweet grape-like fragrance that gives native pollinators some of their first treats of the season..

Location: Legends of the Wild _____

