

What's Blooming—April 2021



It's that time of year! Sweet-smelling gardenia (*Gardenia jasminoides*) is starting to bloom in Southwest Florida. You'll find several gardenia plants near the entrance to the Moonlight Garden.



Crown of thorns (*Euphorbia milii*) was considered by Thomas Edison a promising potential source of domestic natural rubber.



Amaryllis grow from bulbs underground, so they are commonly called lilies, even though they are only distantly related to a true lily. These specimens are popping up east of the Edison Caretaker's House.

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Uncarina
Uncarina grandidieri



Pereskia
Pereskia grandiflora



Nasturtium
Tropaeolum majus



Monkey Brush
Combretum rotundifolium



Sunflower
Helianthus sp.



Bromeliad
Bromeliad spp.



Madagascar Rubber Vine (*Cryptostegia madagascariensis*) is blooming in the research beds south of the Banyan Tree. Uncarina and Pereskia are in the nearby succulent garden.

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The amazing ylang ylang tree (*Cananga odorata*) is firing up south of Edison's Study.



Hibiscus
Hibiscus spp.



Pink Orchid Tree
Bauhinia monandra



Crape Jasmine
Tabernaemontana divaricata



Ground Orchid
Epidendrum radicans



Geiger Tree
Cordia sebestena



St. Christopher Lily
Crinum jagus

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April
2021

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Bush Allamanda
Allamanda schottii



Blue Porterweed
Stachytarpheta jamaicensis



Blue Plumbago
Plumbago auriculata



Jatropha
Jatropha integerrima



Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow
Brunfelsia grandiflora



Confederate Jasmine
Trachelodpermum jasminoides



The Bougainvillea along Bougainvillea Gate is fading this month, but some interesting varieties of this Edison favorite plant are still blooming hard near the Guest House.

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Perhaps the most impressive flower in the garden right now belongs to the shaving brush tree (*Pseudobombax ellipticum*)! This white cultivar is a memorial tree dedicated to beloved volunteer Gary Bishop. There is also a red cultivar behind the Car Exhibit.



Dwarf Poinciana
Caesalpinia pulcherrima



Panama Rose
Rondeletia stigosa



Giant Milkweed
Calotropis gigantea



Firebush
Hamelia patens

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Crinum Lily
Crinum asiaticum



Tahitian Gardenia
Gardenia taitensis



Shell Ginger
Alpinia zerumbet



Spider Orchid
Orchid flos-aeris



Rudbeckia hybrid
Rudbeckia sp.



Queen's Wreath
Petrea volubilis



Oleander (*Nerium oleander*) has been cultivated around the Mediterranean since ancient Greece. There are some mature specimens blooming on the Ford Estate.



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Frangipani (*Plumeria spp.*) are flowering for the first time since their winter dormancy. Typically, the yellow varieties bloom first, followed by the pink, and the red. These beautiful flowers hold significance for cultures all over the world, from ancient Mesoamerica, to Polynesia, India, and even Africa. Look for this specimen near the Security Station.



Adam's Apple Plant
Tabernaemontana crassa



Rose Allamanda
Strophanthus gratus



Chalice Vine
Solandra maxima



Rose
Rosa spp.