**What’s Blooming—July 2022**

**HIBISCUS**
Hibiscus is the state flower of Hawaii. You’ll find many varieties blooming this July. Since the Victorian era they have symbolized delicate beauty, and yellow hibiscus flowers are associated with fortune and good luck!

- Princess Flower
  - Tibouchina sp.
- Asian Snow
  - Wrightia antidysenterica

**MANGO**
Florida is the number one producer of mangoes in the US, and South Florida has the perfect climate for these tasty fruits. Henry Ford’s winter home is named “The Mangoes,” and this month you may be able to snag a fresh one in the gift shop!

- Blackberry Lily
  - Iris domestica
- Gardenia
  - Gardenia Jasminoides

**Watch out for falling figs!** The Mysore fig (*Ficus mysorensis*) by the Ford House and lofty figs (*Ficus altissima*) near The Lab are fruiting now.

- Crape Myrtle
  - Lagerstroemia indica
- Dutchman’s Pipe
  - Aristolochia macrophylla

- Fountain Clerodendrum
  - Clerodendrum minahassae
- Blanket Flower
  - Gaillardia spp.

- Bougainvillea
  - Bougainvillea glabra
- Bridal Bouquet
  - Plumeria pudica
- Cat’s Whisker
  - Orthosiphon aristatus
- Asian Snow
  - Wrightia antidysenterica

**Queen Crape Myrtle**
- Lagerstroemia speciosa

**Geiger Tree**
- Cordia sebestena
Florida is the number grower of caladiums in the country. Approximately 98% of caladium “bulbs” are from Lake Placid, Florida!

Giant Milkweed
Calotropis gigantea

Golden Champaca
Magnolia champaca

Helconia
Heliconia spp.

Indian Mallow
Abutilon chitendenii

Blue Plumbago
Plumbago auriculata

Tree Bougainvillea
Bougainvillea arborea

Lipstick Plant
Bixa orellana

Loquat
Eriobotria japonica

Rubber Vine
Cryptostegia sp.

Ornamental gingers are low-maintenance plants with attractive foliage and long-lasting, colorful blooms. They love heat and humidity, and you can find some interesting ones north of the Security Station.

Mahoe Tree
Talipariti elatum

Marigold
Tagetes spp.

Thomas Edison examined latex in the sap of allamanda vines (Allamanda cathartica) in his Ft. Myers lab in his search for an American source of natural rubber. Look for the pink variety near the Edison Guest House.