**Mango**

Mango (*Mangifera indica*) is the king of fruits, and every July mango mania grips Southwest Florida. Mangos achieve maximum sweetness when allowed to ripen fully on the tree, but sour green mangos “pickled” in vinegar and sugar can make for a crisp and refreshing snack!

**Sky Vine**

Majestic sky vine (*Thunbergia grandiflora*) is a fast-growing vine that looks gorgeous covering a fence, cascading over a wall, or dangling from an arbor. Both cultivars pictured above were photographed along Larchmont Avenue on the northern border of the property.

**Lilies**

Many colorful species of lilies thrive in the heat of summer at The Estates. Rain lilies, (*Zephyranthes* sp., top left) emerge en masse following a heavy downpour. Look for these lilies east of the Caretaker’s House.

**Butterfly Plants**

The rare, native Atala butterfly (top right, on fiddlewood tree) was thought to be extinct for decades, but is making a comeback. The butterfly garden north of the museum is full of all sorts of gorgeous pollinators during summer.

**Rubber Plants**

Thomas Edison tested more than 17,000 plant specimens in search of natural rubber! Goldenrod and Madagascar rubber vine were two of his most promising sources.

**Goldenrod**

(*Solidago* spp.)

**Rubber Vine**

(*Cryptostegia* sp.)

**Pink Orchid Tree**

(*Bauhinia monandra*)

**Chalice Vine**

(*Solandra maxima*)

**King’s Mantle**

(*Thunbergia erecta*)

**Giant Milkweed**

(*Calotropis gigantea*)

**Frangipani**

(*Plumeria* spp.)

**Citrus Blossoms**

(*Citrus* x* spp.*)

**Sky Vine**

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**What’s Blooming—Summer 2023**

**Hibiscus**
Tropical hibiscus flowers range from small to almost 12 inches in diameter! The name “hibiscus” was given to these members of the mallow family by the ancient Greeks. They are heat-loving plants that bloom reliably all year, but especially during the warm months of the growing season.

**Beautyberry**
American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*) is one of several native Florida plants blooming near the Edison Pool Complex. By mid-summer, the inconspicuous flowers will have become striking, bright-purple fruits that are technically edible (though they don’t taste very good).

**Royal Poinciana**
Several mature royal poinciana trees (*Delonix regia*) at the Estates were badly damaged during Hurricane Ian last fall. Also known as the flamboyant tree, these Madagascar natives are coming back with rugged determination.

**Monkey Brush**
One of the more unusual flowers of summer is the monkey brush vine (*Combretum rotundifolium*) growing near the museum.

**Sausage Tree**
African sausage tree (*Kigelia Africana*) dangles trumpet-shaped flowers from long stems that open at night and are pollinated by bats. The result is a giant fruit that looks like a sausage!