

What's Blooming—Spring 2024



Walter's Viburnum

Viburnum obovatum



Flame Vine

Pyrostegia venusta



Flame vine, herald's trumpet (*Beaumontia grandiflora*), and glow vine (*Bignonia magnifica*), are all flowering on the arbor near the solar panels.



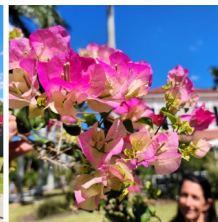
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Roses

Mina Edison and Clara Ford were both avid rose gardeners. Clara grew thousands at her home in Michigan. There are small rose gardens dedicated to both women here at The Estates.



Colorful modified leaves called "bracts" cloak the small white flowers of **bougainvillea** (*B. glabra*; below) behind the museum west porch.



Blue Sky Vine

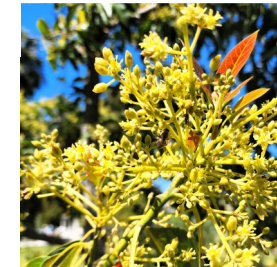
Thunbergia grandiflora



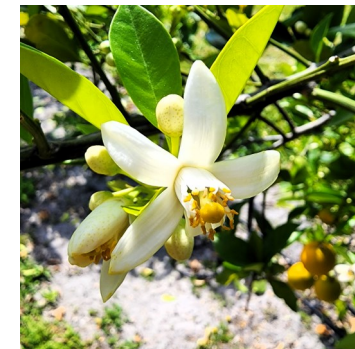
Turk's Cap

Malvaviscus arboreus

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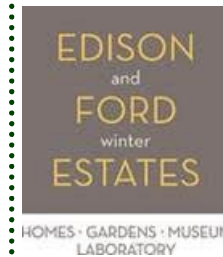


Clockwise from top: **mango** (*Mangifera indica*), **lychee** (*Litchi chinensis*), and **avocado** (*Persea americana*) trees are all blossoming and setting fruit now to be ripe in time for summer.



Ford Citrus Grove

Many citrus fruit trees are everbearing, meaning they have ripe fruit and flowers at the same time.



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Banana

Banana plants grow like giant stalks of celery. The flowers are edible as well as the fruit.



Shower trees **red cassia** (*Cassia roxburghii*, left) and **rainbow shower tree** (*Cassia javanica*, right) flower in spring near Seminole Lodge.



Queen's wreath (*Petrea volubilis*) evokes the familiar beauty of wisteria and has long been a favorite at The Estates.

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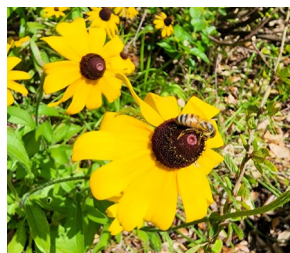
Hibiscus

Nothing says spring in the tropics like the bold and beautiful hibiscus flower.



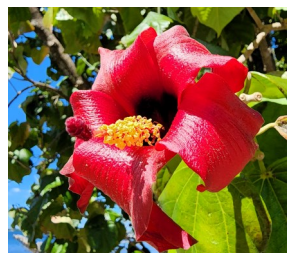
Crinum Lily

Crinum lilies grow from bulbs and are really quite salt-tolerant.



Beach Sunflower

Helianthus debilis



Mahoe Tree

Talipariti elatum

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African Tulip Tree

Spathodea campanulate

This tree can be found along Orchid Lane and in the Research Garden.

Panama Rose

Rondeletia stigosa
A reliable bloomer beneath the porch of the Ford Estate.



Banana Shrub

Magnolia figo

Not the fruit, but this bush smells just like banana extract next to the Pergola.



Spring is a good time to propagate plants. This technique is called "air layering." Branches are scored, then wrapped in moist material until they grow enough roots to be separated.

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Powderpuff trees (*Calliandra haematocephala*) are blooming in two colors on the Ford property.



Gardenia

Gardenia jasminoides



Bleeding Heart Vine

Clerodendrum thomsoniae



Brazilian Cloak

Megaskepasma sp.



Blanket Flower

Gaillardia pulchella



Mexican Bird of Paradise

Caesalpinia mexicana



Yellow Elder

Tecoma stans