**What’s Blooming—Spring 2024**

**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.

**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.

**Blue Sky Vine**
*Thunbergia grandiflora*

**Turk’s Cap**
*Malvaviscus arboreus*

**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.

**Flame Vine**
*Pyrostegia venusta*
Hibiscus
Nothing says spring in the tropics like the bold and beautiful hibiscus flower.

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.

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

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

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

Beach Sunflower
Helianthus debilis

Mahoe Tree
Talipariti elatum

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

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African Tulip Tree
Spathodea campanulata
This tree can be found along Orchid Lane and in the Research Garden.

Panama Rose
Rondeletia stiposa
A reliable bloomer beneath the porch of the Ford Estate.

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

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

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