

2024 Spring Seasonal Display Design Overview

The installation of the spring display is always an important part of having the gardens ready for another exciting season. It also continues the traditions set forth by Marjorie Merriweather Post's gardeners. The designs for 2024 have a little bit of everything and I am happy to share some thoughts on what you will see this year.

In terms of color palette, the designs rely heavily on pinks and purples. As has been the norm recently, these colors are prominent in the Lunar Lawn beds, blending in with the azaleas and dogwoods. They have also returned to the greenhouse beds and cutting garden wall. At the rose garden, the monument is surrounded with 'Pink Cubed', a mix with early, mid and late tulips for maximum staying power. The putting green not only showcases the pink double tulip 'Wedding Gift' but also a pink-stemmed Swiss chard.

There are other colors mixed in too. The French parterre lends itself to any color scheme against the green ivy and boxwood. This year it is an orange and purple tulip mix, 'Jacques and Jill', around Diana with orange pansies along the edge. The motor court is decked out in yellows and blues. The porte cochere is a riot of color hailing back to a time when it was full of flowering plants for Marjorie Merriweather Post.

There are also a lot of unique pansy and viola cultivars on display this year that lend themselves specifically to up-close viewing. 'Frizzle Sizzle Orange' in the French parterre has a beautiful, ruffled edge to the flower. In the motor court, the ruffle is paired with a yellow and blue flower in 'Frizzle Sizzle Yellow Blue Swirl'. At the putting green, 'Bunny Ears' looks just like the name suggests with long and narrow posterior petals at the top. The coloring is fun too with hot pink at the ends of the petals. Another showstopper is the 'Celestial Northern Lights' viola at the conservatory. The flowers have dark purple petals and a gold center that just glows.

Additional Items to Note:

- Installation of the spring display started March 18 but only a few sections were planted due to below freezing temperatures. Installation continued in earnest the following week. Although spent bulbs may be removed earlier, we anticipate the display to run until April 29.
- By the numbers:
 - 25,070 bulbs were planted in the fall: 1,600 for the cutting garden, 630 in the permanent gardens, and 22,840 for the seasonal display beds. Of those bulbs, 18,225 were tulips.
 - The seasonal display includes 6,915 spring plants. 5,130 (74%) were grown in Hillwood's greenhouse.



Thank you for your dedication to Hillwood. If you have any questions or would like to know more, please feel free to contact me at jbonilla@hillwoodmuseum.org.

Thank you! - Jessica Bonilla, Director of Horticulture








(Pictures start from left to right in order of appearance in the text)

<p>Outside conservatory</p>	<p>The larger containers start with woody shrubs (not pictured) as a base planting. A taller herbaceous layer is comprised of: 'Katz Purple' stock, 'Oriole' swiss chard, Osteospermum 'Zion Morning Sun', 'Yellow County' lilies, 'Inimitable' tulips and Erysimum 'Bowles Me Away'. Filler is provided by Carex 'Everillo', a large quantity of Viola 'Celestial Northern Lights' and smaller usage of Viola 'Sorbet Beaconsfield XL' and Viola 'Sorbet Violet' for variety. The trailing element is 'Needlepoint' ivy.</p>	
<p>Motor court</p>	<p>The center around Eros contains 'Inimitable' tulips. Along the edge, 'Blue Jacket' hyacinths are mixed with 'Frizzle Sizzle Yellow Blue Swirl' pansies; We do not pull the hyacinths in this area every year, we let them naturalize and add more. You may see other hyacinth cultivars mixed in the beds.</p>	
<p>Motor court containers</p>	<p>Along with tulips and hyacinths mentioned above, pots also feature more 'Frizzle Sizzle Yellow Blue Swirl' pansies, purple leaf pak choi, Asparagus densiflorus 'Myersii', Nemesia 'Nesia Sunshine', 'Needlepoint' ivy and Artemesia 'Silver Brocade' left in from last fall.</p>	





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<p>Porte cochere</p>	<p>The winter woody planting (not shown) is augmented with tiered containers full of 'Sorbet Lemon Chiffon', 'Sorbet Raspberry' and 'Sorbet Orchid Rose Beacon' violas with 'Yellow Ripple' ivy. Begonia 'Solenia Light Pink' can be found at the top of the containers and in the beds acting as a filler plant to the 'Yellow County' lilies and topiary azaleas</p>	
<p>Pavilion</p>	<p>'Monal' daffodils or 'Mysterious Parrot' tulips with 'Frizzle Sizzle Orange' pansies and 'Yellow Ripple' ivy</p>	
<p>French parterre</p>	<p>'Jacques and Jill' tulips around the statue of Diana and a border of 'Frizzle Sizzle Orange' pansies around the edges.</p>	
<p>Rose garden</p>	<p>'Pink Cubed' tulips around the memorial. The rose bed edges feature 'Sorbet Lemon Chiffon' and 'Sorbet Neptune' violas.</p>	
<p>Friendship walk</p>	<p>'Lemonberry Pie Mix' violas came back so well amongst the bulbs (grape hyacinth, and three daffodil cultivars: 'Mary Poppins', 'Delibes', and 'Geranium') that we decided to leave them in. We used new and old pansies to create a mix of complementary colors along the circle edge (not shown). Other beds along the red path toward the putting green contain 'Matrix Daffodil Mix' pansies.</p>	

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<p>Putting green</p>	<p>The planters contain Swiss Chard 'Peppermint' surrounded with 'Bunny Ears' violas and 'Needlepoint' ivy. The beds contain 'Wedding Gift' tulips.</p>	
<p>Lunar</p>	<p>'Diamond Touch' tulips with a border of blue grape hyacinths.</p>	
<p>South portico</p>	<p>A mix of 'Delta Rose Blotch', 'Delta Pure White', 'Delta Pure Violet' and 'Delta True Blue' pansies in the beds with just 'Delta True Blue' in the pots.</p>	
<p>Vista planters</p>	<p>Hot Cakes Pink' stock as the focal point among a mix of 'Delta Rose Blotch', 'Delta Pure White', 'Delta Pure Violet' and 'Delta True Blue' pansies.</p>	
<p>Around the Dacha</p>	<p>'Sorbet Yellow Jump Up XP' violas in the beds. These same violas are also in the containers along with Osteospermum 'Zion Morning Sun'. The Dacha area beds also contain new permanent bulbs: Puschkinia scilloides, Scilla siberica, and Anemone coronaria 'Mr. Fokker'.</p>	
<p>Holly walk</p>	<p>'Sorbet Lavender Pink' and 'Sorbet Beaconsfield XL' violas.</p>	
<p>Security</p>	<p>A mix of 'Wedding Gift' and 'Yume no Murasaki' tulips.</p>	

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<p>Butler's house pots</p>	<p>'Liberty Rose' snapdragons with 'Penny Winter Mix' violas.</p>	
<p>Butler's bed</p>	<p>Patches of 'Yume no Murasaki', 'Menton' and 'Verichic' tulips complemented by 'Liberty Rose' snapdragons and 'Penny Winter Mix' violas. All mixed in with permanent perennials.</p>	
<p>Cutting Garden Wall</p>	<p>The majority of the wall features a mix of Crocus 'Hokus Crokus', Hyacinth 'Purple Sensation', 'Beyond Baroque' tulips, and 'Pink Charm' daffodils. The corner nearest the visitor center sees the addition of 'Rocket Pink' snapdragons, purple leaf pak choi, 'Matrix Ocean' pansies and Bacopa 'Atlas Blue'.</p>	
<p>Greenhouse bed</p>	<p>A large planting of 'French Blend Rose' tulips highlighted with 'Katz Pink' and 'Hot Cakes Pink' stock. Swaths of purple leaf pak choi and 'Sorbet Orchid Rose Beacon' violas round out the display.</p>	

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