

2025 Summer Seasonal Display Design Overview

Edited August 26, 2025: There were some changes to the designs to note. At the conservatory containers, we had a crop failure with the zinnias and the 'Tattoo Blueberry' vinca succumbed to disease with the rainy weather. Check out the plant ID section below for more updated details on this area. We also added coleus 'Trail Blazer Road Trip' and 'Great Falls Rose Gold' coleus to holly walk, though they now look very similar in the shade. At the greenhouse, Cuphea 'Vermillionaire' was substituted by our supplier with 'Firecracker', a more purple and red "bat-faced" cultivar. That brings you up to date!

Many of the yellows from spring will transition to oranges as we will move right into summer. Starting outside the conservatory, deep oranges from Zinnia 'Profusion Double Fire' and Lantana 'Lucky Red' will mix with purples such as 'Tattoo Blueberry' vinca and Verbena 'EnduraScape Dark Purple'. The greenhouse beds and cutting garden wall will continue the look with some of our orange favorites like 'Compact Electric Orange' sunpatiens, crotons, two types of canna and the hummingbird favorite Cuphea 'Vermillionaire'. At the porte cochere, we will double down on the orange theme by keeping in the Begonia 'Solenia Apricot' and adding Impatiens 'Beacon Orange' to the planting. At the Lunar Lawn beds, the oranges change to salmons based on an exciting mix of sunpatiens that blend salmon, purple and orchid into the 'Compact Hawaiian Sunset Mix'. Thirteen cultivars of flowers behind the sunpatiens border will complement the colors in the mix.

Not all will be orange though. The motor court will lean into the purples from the conservatory by having Scaevola 'Surdiva Purple' around Eros. It has been used successfully in the greenhouse beds previously and because it is low growing, it will maintain the height difference between flower and boxwood needed there. The French parterre will continue the reds from spring. There is a new cultivar of dragon wing begonias with a dark leaf that is exciting. It will be featured along the edges with a hot red coleus named 'Solar Flare'.

There are a few other thoughts about plants to note. There will be more dahlias in the summer display than in previous years. The 'Karma' series, a "new to Hillwood" dahlia series, will play a role in the make-up of the beds and containers at the gates, lower visitor center entrance, and Lunar Lawn beds. Karma dahlias have reportedly very good garden performance and are exceptional cut flowers. More needed to be ordered than can be used in the cutting garden so they were added to the seasonal display designs. Another plant of interest will be at the putting green. Cuphea procumbens 'Sweet Talk Lavender Splash' will feature prominently in the containers and beds and will become a small shrub of flat, two-toned, lavender and blush flowers. It is related to the orange cuphea at the greenhouse and is said to be just as attractive to pollinators, including hummingbirds. Keep an eye on the dahlias and cuphea and together we will see if the claims are true.

Additional Items to Note:




- Installation of the summer display starts April 28, and we anticipate it to stay in until roughly September 22. **Please note: Sunday, September 21 will be the last day to see the entire summer display.**
- There are 10,637 plants in this display. The greenhouses are responsible for growing and maintaining 2,320 of those plants.

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

Jessica Bonilla, Director of Horticulture

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

<p>Conservatory planters</p>	<p>The main structural elements of the containers will begin with Canna 'Pretoria', Panicum 'Northwind', and Ruellia 'Purple Showers'. Filler plants will include Gomphrena 'QIS Orange', 'Campfire' and 'Flamethrower Habanero' coleus, and 'Tropical Orange' sunpatiens. Trailing elements such as Lanatana 'Lucky Red', Scaevola 'Surdiva Purple', Portulaca 'Cupcake Orange Touch', and Verbena 'Endurascape Dark Purple' will also be featured.</p>	
<p>Motor court</p>	<p>The center bed around Eros will be comprised of Scaevola 'Surdiva Purple'. The outside bed edges will have Angelonia 'Angelmist Spreading Dark Purple' and a section of 'Heartbreaker' coleus along the sitting area wall.</p>	
<p>Motor court containers</p>	<p>The large pots will see a mix including Asparagus densiflorus 'Myersii', Sansevieria 'Moonshine' and Tillandsia augmented with Begonia 'Super Olympia Rose', Coleus 'Microblaze Spitfire', and Nemesia 'Nesia Denim' left in from the spring. The Artemesia 'Silver Brocade' from fall of 2023 is still coming back strong and will provide a trailing element with Scaevola 'Surdiva Purple'. The square planters will be made up of 'Heartbreaker' coleus and Angelonia 'Angelmist Spreading Dark Purple'.</p>	





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Porte cochere	Some plants of note in the tropical display will be the fiddle leaf fig, Schefflera, Dracaena, and a dark leaf colocasia. These will act as a backdrop to planters containing Sansevieria 'Moonshine', Begonia 'Solenia Apricot' left in from the spring, Carex 'Everillo', Impatiens 'Beacon Orange', and 'Wojo's Gem' vinca vine.					
Pavilion	Begonia 'Dragon Wing Red Bronze Leaf'					
French parterre	Begonia 'Dragon Wing Red Bronze Leaf' around the edges and 'Solar Flare' coleus around the statue of Diana.					
Rose garden	The center bed and annual strips will be full of SunPatiens 'Compact Happy Days Mix'. The rose beds will be edged with Alyssum 'White Stream'. Scarlet runner bean will also present.					
Friendship walk	A mix of 'Tattoo Blueberry', 'Valiant Punch' and 'Valiant White' vinca in the sunnier areas and Impatiens 'Beacon Chicago Mix' in shadier spots.					

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Putting green	For the containers, Cuphea 'Sweet Talk Lavender Splash' surrounded by Verbena 'EnduraScape Pink Bicolor' and Ipomea 'Tri-Color'. This same combination will be featured in the beds but with Angelonia 'Angelface Super White'.	   
Lunar	The back row will contain patches of Dahlia 'Karma Prospero', Dahlia 'Café of Lait', Zinnia 'Benary's Giant Salmon Rose', Zinnia 'Benary's Giant Purple', Celosia spicata 'Celway Salmon', Celosia spicata 'Purple', Cosmos 'Versailles Flush', Cosmos 'Double Click Bicolor Violet', Gomphrena 'Qis Purple', Cleome 'Clio Magenta', Celosia 'Century Salmon Pink', Salvia 'Grandstand Lavender' and Salvia 'Grandstand Salmon'. The front border will be a massing of 'Compact Hawaiian Sunset Mix' sunpatiens.	             
South portico	The beds will be full of Lantana 'Landmark Rose Sunrise'. The pots will contain either the same lantana or Portulaca 'Happy Trails Peppermint'.	  
Vista planters	Dracaena spikes will provide height while the Lantana 'Landmark Rose Sunrise' will bubble over the containers.	  
Around the Dacha	Beds of Begonia 'Bronze Leaf Mix'.	 

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Holly walk	Pockets of foxtail fern (<i>Asparagus densiflorus</i> 'Myersii'), 'Compact Hawaiian Sunset Mix' sunpatiens, Begonia 'Gryphon', Strobilanthes, and 'Kong Rose' coleus while Tradescantia zebrina Purple and Torenia 'Summer Wave Amethyst' skirt the edges.	
Security	A mix of 'Great Falls Rose Gold' coleus, Impatiens 'Beacon Rose', Angelonia 'Angelmist Spreading Dark Purple' and Lobelia 'Early Springs Magenta'.	
Butler's house pots	Geranium 'Calliope Lavender Splash'	
Butler's bed	Salvia 'Wendy's Wish', Dahlia 'Karma Lagoon', Angelonia 'Archangel Purple', Euphorbia 'Stardust Super Flash', Pentas 'Lucky Star Violet', and Scaevola 'Surdiva Blue Violet' will be added to the existing planting.	

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Cutting garden wall	Two groupings will repeat down the wall. The first group will contain Canna 'Canova Orange Shades' with 'Compact Electric Orange' sunpatiens and Setcreasea 'Purple Heart'. The second group will be Cuphea 'Vermillionaire' and Duranta 'Gold Mound'. The groups will be divided by foxtail fern (Asparagus densiflorus 'Myersii'). The corner towards the motor court will also contain Enseted, 'Electric Lime' coleus and Pentas 'Lucky Star Red'.	
Greenhouse bed	Taller elements will include Canna 'Pretoria', Crotons, and Bromeliad 'Blanchetiana'. Swaths of 'Compact Electri Orange' sunpatiens will be offset with patches of Cuphea 'Vermillionaire' and Pentas 'Lucky Star Red'. Setcreasea 'Purple Heart' and Duranta 'Gold Mound' will act as edging plants.	

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