

# October Blooms in THE BATTERY

As you move through the park, use this guide to identify some of the prominent blooms you see around you. Plant locations are listed as different garden areas of The Battery, shown on the map on the next page. Once you locate and read about each plant, check it off in the box provided. Please remember to follow all social distancing guidelines while at The Battery. We hope you enjoy your visit!



Scientific Name: ***Aconitum carmichaelii***  
Common Name: **Carmichael's Monkshood**  
Location: **Bikeway**

Also known by the common names 'Chinese aconite' and 'Chinese wolfsbane,' *Aconitum carmichaelii* is native to areas of China and eastern Russia. The tall flower stalks can grow up to 4 ft, and the leaves are resistant to predation by deer and rabbits. All parts of this plant are toxic and can cause severe reactions, so it should not be handled without gloves.



Scientific Name: ***Crocus sativus***  
Common Name: **Saffron Crocus**  
Location: **Bosque Gardens**

While most other crocus plants bloom early in spring, *Crocus sativus* blooms in autumn, and is best known for producing the spice saffron from its dried red filaments. *Crocus sativus* isn't found in the wild, as it cannot produce seeds — instead, it must be divided by hand to reproduce. Ethnobotanists suggest that this plant was bred by humans as many as 3500 years ago.



Scientific Name: ***Eryngium yuccifolium***  
Common Name: **Rattlesnake Master**  
Location: **Bosque Gardens, Labyrinth / Forest Farm**

This plant's leaves closely resemble the blade-like leaves of the yucca plant, earning it the species epithet *yuccifolium*. Debates continue about whether or not the plant was used to treat snake bites, but Indigenous tribes in North America have historically used the leaves to weave baskets and shoes.



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Scientific Name: *Persicaria amplexicaulis*

Common Name: **Knotweed, Mountain Fleece, Red Bistort**

Location: **Bosque Gardens, Bikeway**

Native to the mountain regions of the Himalayas, *Persicaria amplexicaulis* is a popular garden plant because of its relatively low maintenance requirements and its long bloom period, all through summer until the first frost. Look for two different cultivars: 'Firetail' has red flowers, while 'Alba' has white blooms. Both plants attract a range of pollinators.



Scientific Name: *Symphotrichum oblongifolium* 'October Skies'

Common Name: **Aromatic Aster**

Location: **Bosque Gardens**

The aromatic aster is native to New York and much of the U.S. east of the Rocky Mountains. The plant grows well in rocky and sandy soils, so it is often used for habitat restoration projects on disturbed sites. The flowers produce ample nectar for native pollinators, and the leaves are food for a range of herbaceous insects, including butterfly and moth caterpillars.

