

Isabella Plantation in February



Photo by: Ron Teague & Joyce Bing

TREES AND SHRUBS WITH COLOURED AND TEXTURED BARK

The pollarded willows on the banks of Peg's Pond are forms of *Salix alba*, with amber and red stems. Yellow-stemmed dogwood, *Cornus sericea* 'Flaviramea', grows nearby under the weeping willow, and in the Bog Garden.

Red-stemmed dogwood, *Cornus alba*, is set back behind the heathers, and throughout the Bog Garden. *Cornus sanguinea* 'Midwinter Fire' has orange and red stems which show throughout the winter months and can also be found in the Bog Garden.

The "River Birch", *Betula nigra*, has papery shredding buff coloured bark. Two of these trees grow on the north side of the Main Stream; one above the Heather Garden and the other towards the top. Three "Himalayan Birches", *B. jacquemontii*, with striking white stems, stand on the lawn above Thomson's Pond.

The "Tibetan Cherry", *Prunus serrula*, has gleaming mahogany-red bark beginning to peel into curly shreds. One is set back on the lawn to the north east of Thomson's Pond. Three other good specimens may also be found in Wilson's Glade.

Acer hersii, at the north end of the Acer Glade path, is one of several 'snake bark' Acers in the garden.

HEATHER GARDEN

Erica x darleyensis comes into flower in its pink and white forms.

Tawny seed heads of *Erica vagans* remain decorative all winter.

The tall "Portugal Heath", *Erica lusitanica*, bears slightly fragrant tubular white flowers opening from pink buds throughout winter.

Clumps may be found towards the top of the Heather Garden, near the junction of Thomson's Stream and the Main Stream.

Nandina domestica "Sacred Bamboo", is planted behind the heather in several places, is truly a plant for all seasons. Decorative evergreen leaves are tinged purple in spring and autumn, panicles of white flowers open in the summer to provide orange red berries throughout winter.

FLOWERING SHRUBS

Hamamelis mollis, the "Witch Hazel", has fragrant yellow tassel flowers. Two large shrubs stand by the gate to Broomfield Hill.

Lonicera X purpusii 'Winter Beauty' is a shrubby honeysuckle which bears tiny white fragrant flowers throughout winter. A group of these shrubs grows by the Acer Glade path.

Rhododendron dauricum 'Midwinter' is a semi-evergreen or deciduous Rhododendron which grows on Bluebell Walk and looks stunning this month with its phlox purple flowers.

Rhododendron 'Christmas Cheer' flowers pink in bud and fades to white grows alongside the main stream path above the Bog Garden. The name refers to the one time practice of forcing this plant for decoration.

Camellia japonica 'Nobilissima', with white peony form flowers grows in the woodland ride to the north of Thomson's Stream.

The williamsii hybrid *Camellia* 'Parkside' bears an abundance of semi-double flowers in a clear pink and can be found growing in the glade next to Thomson's Lawn. Many other Camellias are beginning to flower around the gardens.

Cornus mas the "Cornelian Cherry" grows in the shelterbelt near the gate to disabled car park. It produces lots of small yellow flowers on the naked stems throughout February.

Look out for the daffodil *Narcissus cyclamineus* growing naturalised in the lawns to the left of the Top Gate which bare delicate rich golden pendulous flowers.

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