

Sensory Garden – Kindergarten Courtyard – Topics of Study

Plant Name	Colors	Special Sensory Interest	Seasonal Changes	Leaves	Flowers	Bark/Stems	Seed Pods	Bulbs	Unique Facts
Allium (Alium) 	Purple flowers; green stems	Smell – oniony when leaves brushed or cut Sight – puffy flowers	Blooms in spring to early summer	Gray- green	Dense umbels of tiny flowers	Bare, erect, small stems		Fall planting	Ornamental onions; bulbs and leaves edible; Larval hosts for moths
Asian Daisy (Anthemis tinctoria) 	Yellow flowers; Green/silver gray stems	Smell – aromatic flowers and foliage	Blooms in fall	Finely dissected foliage	Prolific flowers on tips of stems				Variety – Moonlight
Baptisia (False Indigo) 	Blue/green leaves; purple/dark blue flowers	Sound – seed pods rattle	Blooms late spring to early summer; Maintains leaves & seed pods in winter	Compound leaflets arranged in 3's.	Unusual pea-like flowers in spike-like clusters		Interesting dark seed pods follow flowers		Seed pods can be dried; Host plant for butterflies; Historically used as a blue dye: false indigo.

Plant Name	Colors	Special Sensory Interest	Seasonal Changes	Leaves	Flowers	Bark/Stems	Seed Pods	Bulbs	Unique Facts
Big Twisted Rush 	Bright Green	Sight – corkscrew-like foliage	Evergreen	Spiraling foliage – twisted and curled like a corkscrew	None				Grass-like plant
Crape Myrtle 	Pink flowers; Green, yellow and red leaves through seasons	Touch – smooth bark	Blooms summer to early fall; leaves turn colors in fall	Elliptical, long; deciduous	8” – 12” clusters; showy, frilly; pentacles	Smooth with a variety of colors (mottled); peels	Round capsules with small winged seeds inside		Host plant for silk moths; many varieties named for American Indian American tribes.
Flame Grass 	Green, orange, red, beige	Touch – feathery plumes; Sound – rustles when moves	Green leaves turn to orange and then red; plumes appear in the fall	Long and slender	Plumes				

Plant Name	Colors	Special Sensory Interest	Seasonal Changes	Leaves	Flowers	Bark/Stems	Seed Pods	Bulbs	Unique Facts
Harry Lauder Walking Stick (contorted filbert) 	Pale yellow catkins; medium green leaves; pale yellow leaves in fall	Touch – many textures	Striking catkins appear in winter; green leaves turn yellow in fall	Almost circular and toothed	Catkins – soft spikes of flowers without petals	Strongly twisted shoots – particularly striking in winter; branches wander in all directions; contorted	Half enclosed in fringed tubes		Seed pods referred to as nuts as plant is part of the filbert family.
Honeysuckle 	Green leaves; pinkish flowers with yellow centers	Touch – smooth edged leaves; Smell – sweet scent; Taste – sweet, edible nectar	Blooms in spring	Smooth edged; grow in opposite pairs so that they appear as one with flower stem passing through.	Clusters; 2-lipped tubes; yield nectar	Woody, twining, climbing	Creates berries		Variety – Goldflame; good food for hummingbirds; larval host for variety of moths and butterflies
Irish Moss 	Yellow green leaves; white flowers	Touch – soft leaves	Blooms in late spring to summer	Dense growth of short leaves resembles spreading carpet	White	Visibility masked by dense leaves			Leaves must have contact with the ground to spread.

Plant Name	Colors	Special Sensory Interest	Seasonal Changes	Leaves	Flowers	Bark/Stems	Seed Pods	Bulbs	Unique Facts
Lamb's Ear 	Silvery white leaves; purplish flowers	Touch – soft and wooly leaves	Leaves remain in fall, winter; blooms in summer	Large, elliptical, to oblong; Mullein-like	Spikes				Very descriptive name
Lavender 	Grayish to blue green leaves; lavender colored flowers	Touch - Wooly leaves; Smell – fragrant flowers; Taste – edible flowers used for tea, and as an herb	Blooms in spring and in the fall; does not entirely die back in winter	Narrow, long, spiky and wooly; hold scent all year long.	Very small and in packed spikes above foliage				Produces abundant nectar for bees; flowers may be dried; used in perfumes and for medicinal purposes.
Lemon Thyme 	Green leaves; pale lilac flowers	Smell – scent of lemon when touched; Taste – strong taste of lemon	Blooms in spring; winter hardy	Tiny, oval, lemon-scented	Pale lilac	Rounded shrub			Strongest flavored of all varieties of thyme; used to add lemon flavor to foods.

Plant Name	Colors	Special Sensory Interest	Seasonal Changes	Leaves	Flowers	Bark/Stems	Seed Pods	Bulbs	Unique Facts
Money Plant 	Dark green leaves; silvery "coins"; white-purple flowers, brown pod coverings	Smell – sweetly scented flowers	Blooms late spring to early summer; seed pods develop after blooms.	Toothed, heart-shaped	Small with 4 petals; white and purple flowers can appear on the same plant.	Long	Coin-like (to get coins, gently rub off outer covering of pod when it is dry and brown).		Biennial; coins can be dried; also called Honesty.
Peppermint 	Medium green and reddish green leaves; purple flowers.	Smell – aromatic foliage; Taste – mint flavored leaves used in tea and in cooking.	Blooms in spring	Oval, toothed; set opposites; resembles carpet.	1" across	Underground stems			Flavoring many things: toothpaste, candy, etc. Used medicinally; leaves can be dried.
Russian Sage 	Gray/green foliage; violet-blue flowers	Smell – strong scent	Blooms late summer to early fall	Egg-shaped to filigree cut	Small tubular violet-blue	Soft-wooded; aromatic all year			Resembles a huge, white bird nest in winter; mint family.

Plant Name	Colors	Special Sensory Interest	Seasonal Changes	Leaves	Flowers	Bark/Stems	Seed Pods	Bulbs	Unique Facts
Scottish Broom 	Golden yellow flowers; black seed pods	Sound – Seed pods make sharp, cracking sound.	Blooms in late spring into summer; seed pods ripen in mid summer.	Deciduous	Sweet pea-like; dense clusters scattered along stem	Arching stems	Abundant black seed pods		Variety – Moonglow; often called popcorn bush.
Scottish Moss 	Bright green leaves; white flowers	Touch – leaves feel like carpet	Blooms in late spring into summer	Dense growth of short leaves resemble spreading carpet.	White	Visibility masked by dense leaves			Leaves must have contact with the soil to spread.
Spice Bush 	Green leaves; yellow leaves in fall; greenish-yellow flowers	Smell – all parts have spicy fragrance; Taste – berries taste spicy; leaves and twigs brewed for tea.	Blooms in early spring before leaves; fall leaves are clear yellow; oblong berries after leaves fall; deciduous	Broad, oval up to 5" across	Tiny, growing in dense clusters; narrow petals like a Magnolia	Bark has spicy aroma when cut or bruised	Soft, fig-like fruit called drupes; good food source for birds in early winter.		Only female plants have berries; host plant for Eastern Tiger and Swallowtail Butterflies.

Plant Name	Colors	Special Sensory Interest	Seasonal Changes	Leaves	Flowers	Bark/Stems	Seed Pods	Bulbs	Unique Facts
Tulip 	Green stem; variety of colors	Sight – many colors	Fall planting; winter cold; spring blooms	Lance-shaped	Single flower per plant; cup-shaped bloom	Long, slender	Capsule with seeds lined up after flowers dry	Fall planting	Bulb must experience cold to bloom.
Yarrow 	Yellow flowers; gray-green leaves	Smell – aromatic foliage; Touch – hairy foliage; Taste – used as an herb	Blooms late to spring fall	Lacy, fern-like	Flat heads of tiny flowers; popular with butterflies because of flat landing surface.				Flowers can be dried; helps other plants that it is near; attracts helpful insects and repels other insects; some birds line nests with plant parts to prevent parasites that harm chicks; some cultures consider plant good luck.