

Clements-Keels Garden

1. *Iris tectorum* 'Alba' – White roof Iris – Several clusters of frilly white flowers in mid-April form this clump in the front yard. These easy-to-grow clumps thrive in dry shade or on damp roofs, as long as the drainage is good you'll reap their rewards!
2. *Iris cristata* 'Powder Blue Giant' – Dwarf crested Iris– A cluster of 5 by the front rock path by the garage is low-growing, rapidly spreading and massed with lilac or lavender flowers in early spring.
3. *Convallaria majalis* – Lily of the Valley – This cluster around the bend of the wooden shaded path will be familiar to many, this old fashioned rhizomatous herbaceous perennial was in many of our grandmothers gardens. We're happy to see it still going strong in gardens today. It does well in low light woody soils, a lovely addition to your shade garden.
4. *Hosta* 'Humpback Whale' – Halfway down the path on right this stunning drama filled hosta will certainly stop you in your tracks! Its 7' wide heart-shaped corrugated blue-green leaves is topped with lavender flowers in the summer. The flowers are lovely, but its sheer size is what makes it notable!
5. *Hosta* 'Dragon Tails' – This miniature small golden-yellow hosta has heavily rippled margins. Its fast growing and well suited to woodland settings.
6. *Matteuccia struthiopteris* – Ostrich fern – These stately ferns typically grow 2-3' tall in cultivation, but may reach 6' tall in moist cool climates or in the wild. The showy parts of this fern are the finely dissected, medium green fronds which as their name suggests, exhibit the feathery appearance of long ostrich plumes. Unfurling from a fiddlehead in early spring these make a nice textural addition to cut flower arrangements.
7. *Illicium parviflorum* 'Florida Sunshine' – Two clusters of these dazzling, compact trees with glossy, chartreuse-yellow foliage and red hued stems by the rock bridge are enhanced by the delightful licorice-scented fruit for weeks beginning in late spring. The small non-edible fruits are not a substitute for the culinary spice obtained from *Illicium verum*, DO NOT INGEST!
8. *Mertensia virginica* – Virginia bluebells – Although called Virginia bluebells, this is actually a native Missouri wildflower that thrives in moist, rich woods and river floodplains. It is an erect, clump-forming perennial that grows 1-2' tall and features loose, terminal clusters of pendulous, trumped-shaped, blue flowers that bloom in early spring. Foliage dies to the ground by mid-summer and it goes dormant until next season, so plant accordingly so you don't leave a "gap" in your beds!
9. *Trillium erectum* – Red trillium, Purple wakerobin – This is one of the most common eastern Trilliums blooming for nearly 3 weeks in April, May or June. Its foul smell attracts carrion flies that act as pollinators. Its common name "wake robin" has an analogy with the European robin, which has a red breast heralding spring.
10. *Heuchera villosa* 'Citronelle' – Finally a heat and humidity tolerant heuchera has reached the market! Its stunning lime-yellow foliage is followed by a creamy-white bloom spike in summer. The large, colorful leaves on a low, clumping form create stunning contrast in the garden.