Pineapple Guava (Feijoa Sellowiana)

The Pineapple Guava is a slow-growing, multi-stemmed evergreen shrub from southern Brazil to Argentina. The showy flowers with dark red stamens are edible and make a delicious and beautiful addition to a salad. The plant also produces an egg shaped fruit called a feija. The fruit has a waxy blue-green skin that encloses a juicy greenish-white pulp. It is a widely grown shrub in the mid-South; less prevalent in the lower South. High humidity interferes with pollination. This may be the reason for poor fruit set in the lower South. Although our Hilltop specimen, planted by Mr. Smith, produces fruit consistently each year.

Average Size (Height x Spread): 10' x 8'
Bloom Season: Summer
Light-Moisture: (Part Shade) Fertile, well-drained, acid soil.

Oakleaf Hydrangea (Hydrangea quercifolia)

The Oakleaf Hydrangea is highly sensitive to heavy clay soils. It grows best in a fertile, well-drained, acid-soil and partial shade but needs considerable light, especially morning sun for prolific flowering. The soil and light conditions at Hilltop are well suited to the needs of the plant. Mr. Smith planted the extensive collection of Oakleaf Hydrangea we enjoy today at Hilltop many years ago.

Average Size (Height x Spread): 6'x4'
Bloom Season: Creamy-white summer, turning pink and then brown. Persist on shrub through winter.
Light-Moisture: (Full Sun to fruit) Moist, well-drained loam soil.

Emory Smith Southern Magnolia (Magnolia grandiflora)

In 1929 Emory Smith purchased a twenty-acre farm he called Hilltop. He built a house on the property in 1947 and the Smiths moved there. It was not until after Emory’s retirement from the U.S. postal service in 1950 that he developed the idea of establishing Hilltop as a sanctuary for native plants. Over the years, he planted over 150 locally collected native trees and shrubs. The ‘Emory Smith’ Magnolia, a cultivar of the Southern Magnolia (Magnolia grandiflora) is registered and named in his honor. An early picture of the tree (right) shows its unique columnar form.

Average Size (Height x Spread): 40’x25’
Bloom Season: Summer
Light-Moisture: (Sun, Partial Shade) Moist, fertile acid soil.

Visit www.lsu.edu/hilltop for a complete list of activities, events, programs, facility rental and professional photography fees.
Welcome to LSU’s Hilltop Arboretum!

Highlands

1. Pineapple Guava*  
   Feijoa selloana  
   - A dense, mounding evergreen shrub in full sunlight. Fragrant white flowers have prominent dark red stamen and mature plants produce edible fruit.

2. Flowering Maple  
   Abutilon pictum  
   - A semi-tropical, upright perennial shrub with exotic flowers, which are orange-yellow with crimson veins. The three-lobed leaves are maple-like in appearance.

3. Java Shrub*  
   Clerodendrum speciosissimum  
   - A semi-woody, upright perennial shrub native to Java and Ceylon. The shrub is popular in old Deep South gardens for showy flowers of red pyramidal panicles.

Cathedral

4. Smooth sumac  
   Rhus glabra  
   - An indigenous deciduous shrub or small tree with upright stems and a broad, flat crown. It forms triangular shaped flowers and can be propagated by seed.

5. Christmas Berry  
   Ardisia crenata  
   - A small, upright, multi-stemmed evergreen shrub that is excellent for mass plantings in the shade. The coral-red berries form drooping clusters below the foliage.

6. Sweetbay Magnolia  
   Magnolia virginiana  
   - A semi-evergreen native tree common to moist, acidic soils near ponds and streams. The creamy-white flowers are up to three inches wide and very aromatic.

Pond Walk

7. Buttonbush  
   Cephalanthus occidentalis  
   - A native, deciduous shrub or small tree with a spreading crown. The white, round flowers are one to two inches in diameter and bloom on terminal clusters.

8. Woolly-Rose Mallow  
   Hibiscus laevis  
   - An erect shrub-like perennial that grows in wet alluvial soils of the region. The funnel-shaped white to pink flowers with a maroon throat are similar to a hibiscus.

9. Pickerel Weed  
   Pontederia cordata  
   - A large perennial herb water plant with erect flower spikes are deep blue to purple and rise above the foliage.

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    Pontederia cordata  
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Bamboo Pass

16. Boxelder  
    Acer negundo  
    - A native deciduous tree with a round canopy. The drooping samaras (type of fruit) borne in V-shaped winged pairs are found on the tree in summer-winter.

17. Basswood  
    Tilia americana  
    - A tall, stately native tree with a straight trunk and drooping branches that form a round canopy. Grows well in rich, moist soil. The drooping flower clusters attract bees.

Ravines

18. Oakleaf Hydrangea*  
    Hydrangea quercifolia  
    - A native, deciduous shrub abundant in the South in ravines, bluffs, and streams. The flowers are a foot long with creamy-white petals, turning pink then brown.

19. Devil’s Walking Stick  
    Aralia spinosa  
    - A native, small deciduous tree with tall, spiny stems and umbrella-like leaf clusters. The flowers are small, white, dense umbellate clusters four feet long above the leaves.

20. Titl  
    Cyrilla racemiflora  
    - A native semi-evergreen small tree with a short trunk and broad-spreading, irregular branches. Clusters of showy racemes with white flowers cascade down.

21. Southern Magnolia*  
    Magnolia grandiflora  
    - A stately, native evergreen tree with a dense, upright pyramidal form. The flowers are highly fragrant, large, white, and up to eight inches across.

Hodge Podge Nursery

After your tour of the grounds visit the Hodge Podge Nursery for a great selection of native, adapted and pass-along plants grown by volunteers as a fundraiser for the Arboretum. Many of the plants found throughout this brochure can be found in the nursery. The Hilltop staff (Tuesday-Friday from 9am-4:30pm) and nursery volunteers (Wednesdays from 9am-11am) are always happy to help you make the best selection. We are keeping with Emory Smith’s tradition of growing plants for all to enjoy!

* See Back For Additional Information