



Project LUNA presents

Community Planting Guide

a coloring book for all ages

About Our Program



LUNA (Learning Urban Nature through Art) is a free, after-school program launched in 2016 and hosted by the Kingsley Association in the Larimer neighborhood of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In the spring, students were introduced to their local plants, trees, pollinators, and birds through local environmental educators. Drawing plants and writing about their unique characteristics honed students' ability to identify plants and appreciate what they bring to the urban environment. In the summer, students enlarged their drawings and painted street banners. Our fall program combined the students' drawings and plant research into this Community Planting Guide.

We at LUNA believe that one of the most effective ways to 'repair the world' is through education. The complexity and diversity of the natural world is internalized and made visible through the process of artmaking: recording, writing, imaging, and then sharing what was learned with the larger community. Through this learning, we hope our LUNA participants will develop a lifelong love of both nature and art.

—Ann Rosenthal and Maya Guerin

See what we've accomplished throughout 2016 at: lunapittsburgh.org



What's Inside



Cover: Color the birds on the cover to make this Guide your own! Left: Ruby-throated Hummingbird; Right: Eastern Bluebird; Below: Goldfinch.

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Welcome

This Guide is designed as a coloring book so that you can learn through doing and creating, as our LUNA students have done. It includes planting tips, coloring book pages, local gardening resources, and coloring guidelines. The coloring book pages depict ground-covers, flowers, shrubs, and garden-sized trees. We invite you to discover the plants we have researched by reading the descriptions of each plant. Color cues are indicated in bold text. Flip to the inside back cover to see a thumbnail photo of each plant and coloring tips.

Whether you have a container to plant on your doorstep, a small plot of soil along a walkway, or a backyard to make into an oasis, we hope this Guide inspires your whole family to garden together.

Planting Tips

Glossary

Annual:

A plant that lasts only one year. Must be replanted each season.

Perennial:

A plant that goes through a seasonal life cycle and returns each year.

Native:

Plants that occur naturally, or have existed for many years in a particular region, ecosystem, or habitat.

Non-Native:

Plants that have been introduced to an ecosystem outside of their native habitat.

Evergreen:

A plant that doesn't lose its leaves.

Deciduous:

A tree or shrub that sheds its leaves every year.

Pollinator:

An insect or animal that pollinates plants by moving pollen from one plant to another.

These terms are italicized in the plant pages.

Questions to Ask Before You Begin

About your garden:

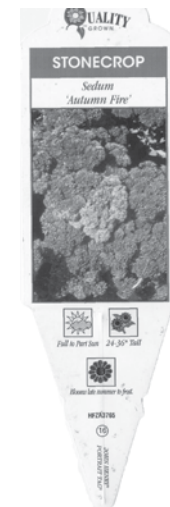
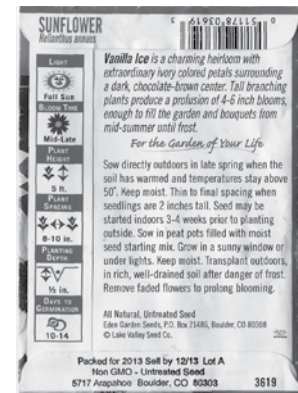
- How much room do you have to grow plants?
- How much sunlight do you get in your garden?
- What kind of soil do you have—rocky, sandy, clay-like, loamy (combination)?
- How will you water your garden?
- How much time can you devote to your garden?

About the plants you want to grow:

- How much space do they need to grow—height, depth, and width?
- What kind of soil do they thrive in?
- How much sun do they need?
- How much water do they like?
- When do they bloom?
- What kinds of insects or animals do they attract (bees, birds)?

Consider color, size, texture, and bloom time of the plants you select when planning your garden.

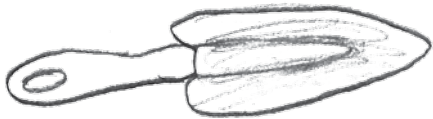
Seed packets and planting tags that come with nursery plants will give you important information on a plant and what it needs to thrive.



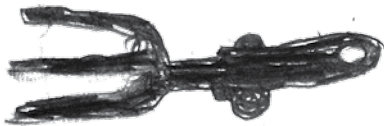
Basic Gardening Tools



Shears



Trowel



Hand Fork

How to Plant

Refer to your seed packet or plant tag for planting instructions. After planting, be sure your plants get enough sun and water. Remove weeds and apply mulch as needed.

How to start a plant from seed:

- Decide what plant you want to grow.
- Loosen and prepare the soil—you may need to add fertilizer or compost.
- Follow directions on seed packet for depth and dig hole accordingly.
- Plant the number of seeds per hole according to packet.
- Cover loosely with soil.
- Water immediately.

Be sure your seeds remain undisturbed until they germinate.

How to plant a seedling or nursery plant:

- Select a location that provides the light required for the plant.
- Dig a hole the size indicated on the plant tag and add fertilizer if needed.
- If needed, gently loosen root ball.
- Carefully place plant in hole and fill in with soil.
- Water generously.

How to plant a container garden:

- Decide size and shape of container according to size indicated on seed packet or planting tag(s) of plant(s).
- Purchase potting soil to fill in around plant(s).
- Select a location that provides the light required for the plant(s).
- Dig a hole the size indicated on each plant tag or seed packet, and add fertilizer if needed.
- If needed, gently loosen root ball of any nursery plants.
- Carefully place plants in holes and fill in with soil.
- Water generously.

Container gardens are a great way to create a seasonal design by grouping perennials and annuals.

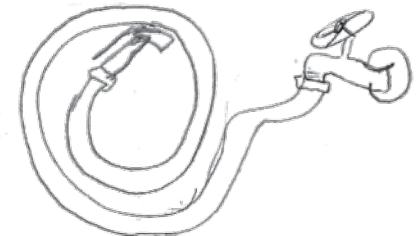
Basic Gardening Tools



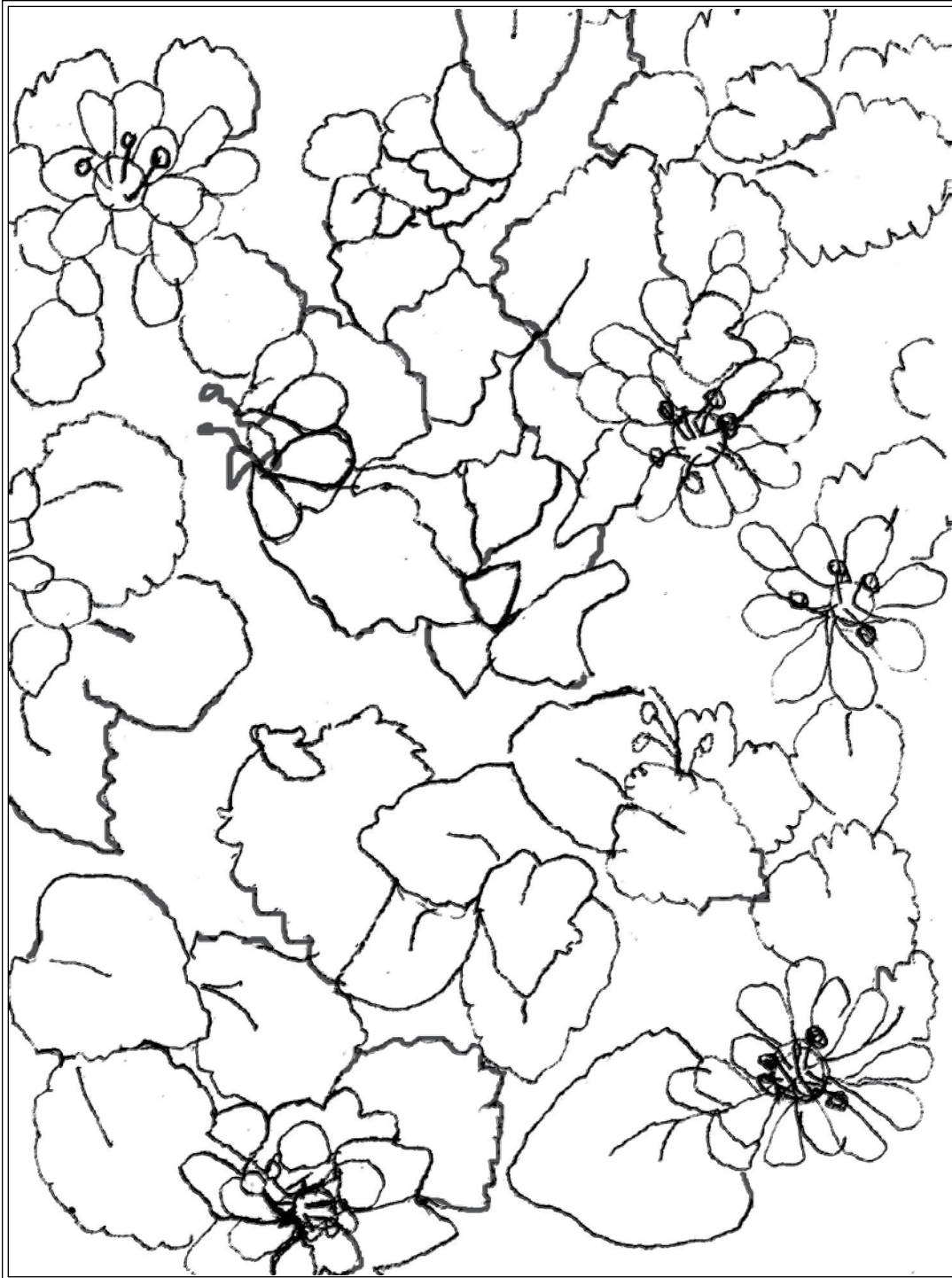
Rake



Watering Can



Hose



Lamium (groundcover)

Lamium, also known as white dead-nettle is a showy *evergreen perennial* groundcover that spreads patches of small silver leaves with clusters of soft, delicate flowers appearing in spring.

Characteristics:

The serrate **leaves are edged in green with a lighter, almost white interior**, which can grow 8 to 12 inches. **Pink or purple flowers** appear in mid- to late spring. They can be grown from seeds or plants. Stems root as they grow along the ground.

Growing Conditions:

Plant in spring or fall in moist, well-drained soil. Prefers shade but can get some sun. Can be easily moved in spring or fall, and can also be easily divided.

Fun Facts:

Can be used for containers and borders. Is rabbit and deer resistant and drought tolerant. An important early food source for hungry *pollinators*, but can also self-pollinate.

Coloring Tips:

Look to the bold words above and back page for color cues.

Myrtle (groundcover)

Myrtle, also known as Vinca, is an *evergreen perennial* groundcover. It is often used in landscaping as a border plant. Its long trailing stems and flowers make attractive planters and hanging baskets.

Characteristics:

Blue violet flowers are complemented by small, glossy, oval, **dark green leaves**. Plant growth is dense and close to the ground.

Growing Conditions:

Likes all soil types and is drought resistant. Blooms April through May.

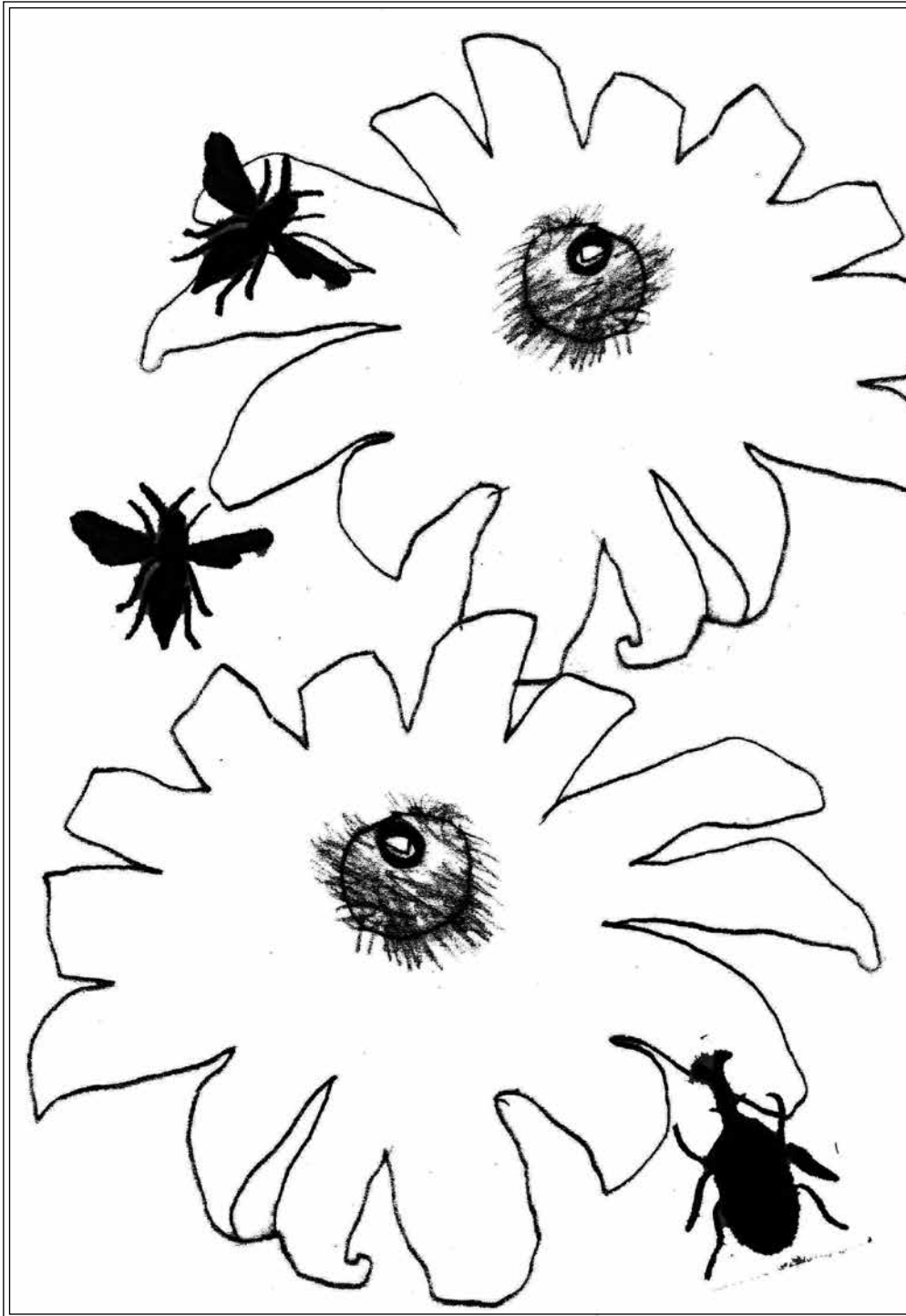
Fun Facts:

Myrtle, a *native* of the Mediterranean, Asia Minor, and northern Africa, was cultivated in ancient Europe, China, and India. It was first introduced to America in the late 1700s. The vine also lends itself to basket making.

Coloring Tips:

Look to the bold words above and back page for color cues for both the Myrtle and the Ruby-throated Hummingbird pictured here.





Black-Eyed Susan (flower)

Blackeyed Susan, also known as Rudbeckia, is a hardy *perennial* flower *native* to North America. They are often planted by seed and grow to be 2 to 3 feet in height. These resilient wildflowers, which bloom July through October, do just as well in containers as in a garden plot.

Characteristics:

Daisy-like flowers have **yellow petals with dark brown centers**. Their straight, stiff stems support mounds of coarse, **dark green leaves**.

Growing Conditions:

Likes full sun, but can tolerate some shade. Does well in average, well-drained soil and is fairly drought resistant.

Fun Facts:

Good for cut flowers. These flowers are known as pioneer plants as they are one of the first plants to grow after a fire or natural disaster.

Coloring Tips:

Look to the bold words above and back page for color cues.

Coneflower (flower)

Also known as Echinacea, the coneflower is *native* to the Midwest. These daisy-like flowers with raised centers come in many colors and attract songbirds while repelling deer.

Characteristics:

Flowers display a range of colors from **yellow and orange to red and violet**. The flower seed heads pop out from the daisy-like petals and attract bees, birds, and butterflies. Tall, straight, **light green stems** are offset by narrow, long leaves.

Growing Conditions:

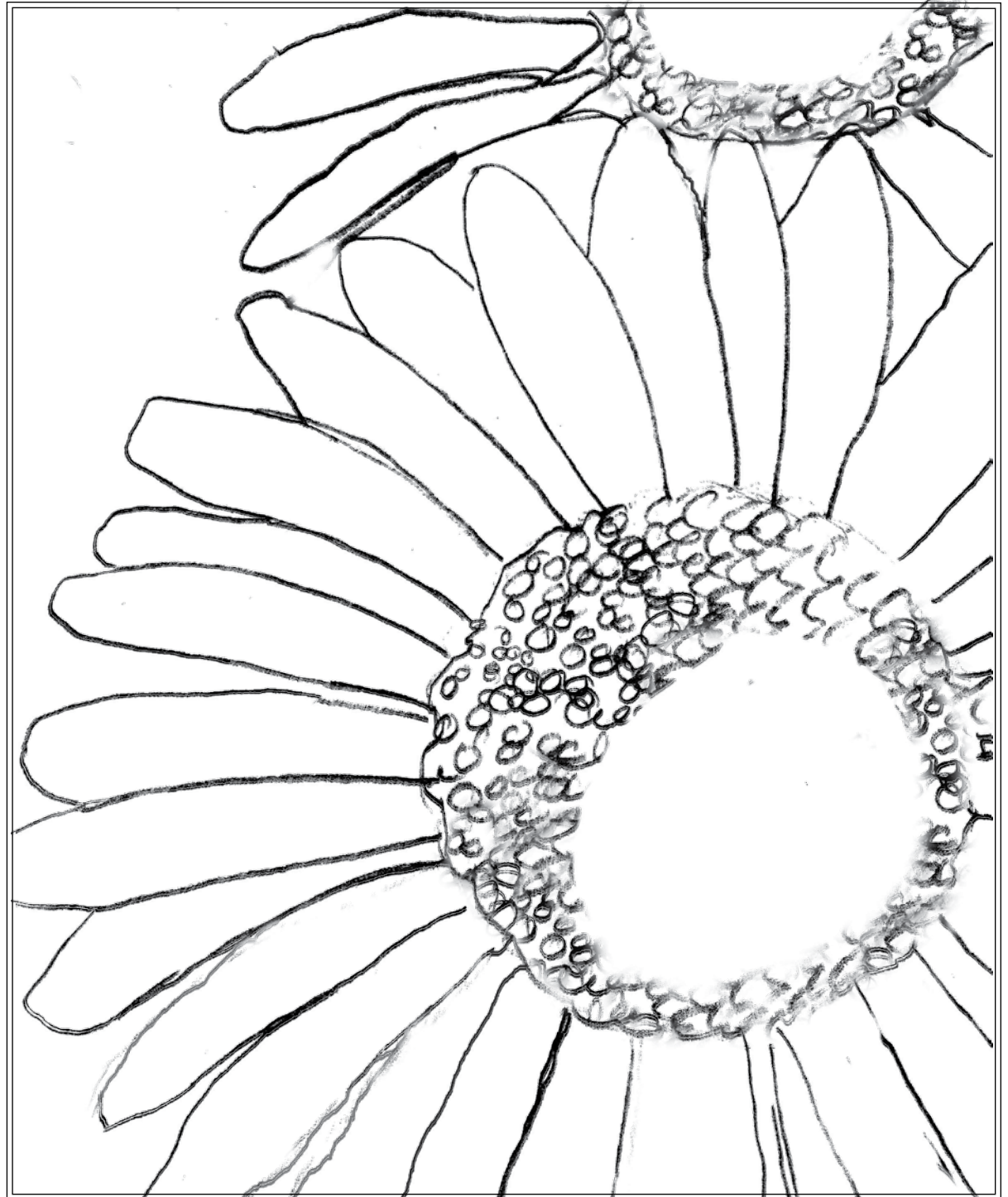
Likes to be planted in the spring or fall in average, well-drained soil. Prefers full sun but can tolerate some shade. Flowers bloom July to August. Fairly drought-tolerant. Can be planted in containers.

Fun Facts:

The purple coneflower was and still is a widely used medicinal plant of the Plains Indians. It was used as a painkiller for a variety of ailments, including toothache, coughs, colds, sore throats, and snake bite.

Coloring Tips:

Look to the bold words above and back page for color cues.





Hellebore (flower)

Hellebore, also known as Lenten rose, is an *evergreen perennial* flower that blooms in the late winter/early spring, adding color to otherwise dormant gardens. These flowers do well under trees and shrubs, and are excellent container plants. Plants can be transplanted from other gardens or obtained from a nursery.

Characteristics:

Flowers have a wide range of colors from **light pink**, **deep violet**, and **maroon**, to **green** and **cream with violet flecks**, and many more. Open, cup-shaped petals surround large centers with deeply divided *evergreen* leaves.

Growing Conditions:

Likes winter sun and summer shade. Prefers soil rich in organic matter that is well drained.

Fun Facts:

Their common name is Lenten rose because they bloom around the beginning of Lent. However, these are not roses at all but actually belong to the Buttercup family. They are deer and rabbit resistant.

Coloring Tips:

Look to the bold words above and back page for color cues.

Japanese Anemone (flower)

Japanese Anemone, also known as Thimbleweed, is a *perennial* flower *native* to Asia. These flowers are planted as bulbs in the spring and bloom in the late summer and early fall. They are noted for their long, thin stems and delicate flowers.

Characteristics:

Flowers are comprised of five, shallow-cupped petals ranging from **white, pink, or violet** with **yellow centers**. The long, thin stems support **dark green**, divided leaves.

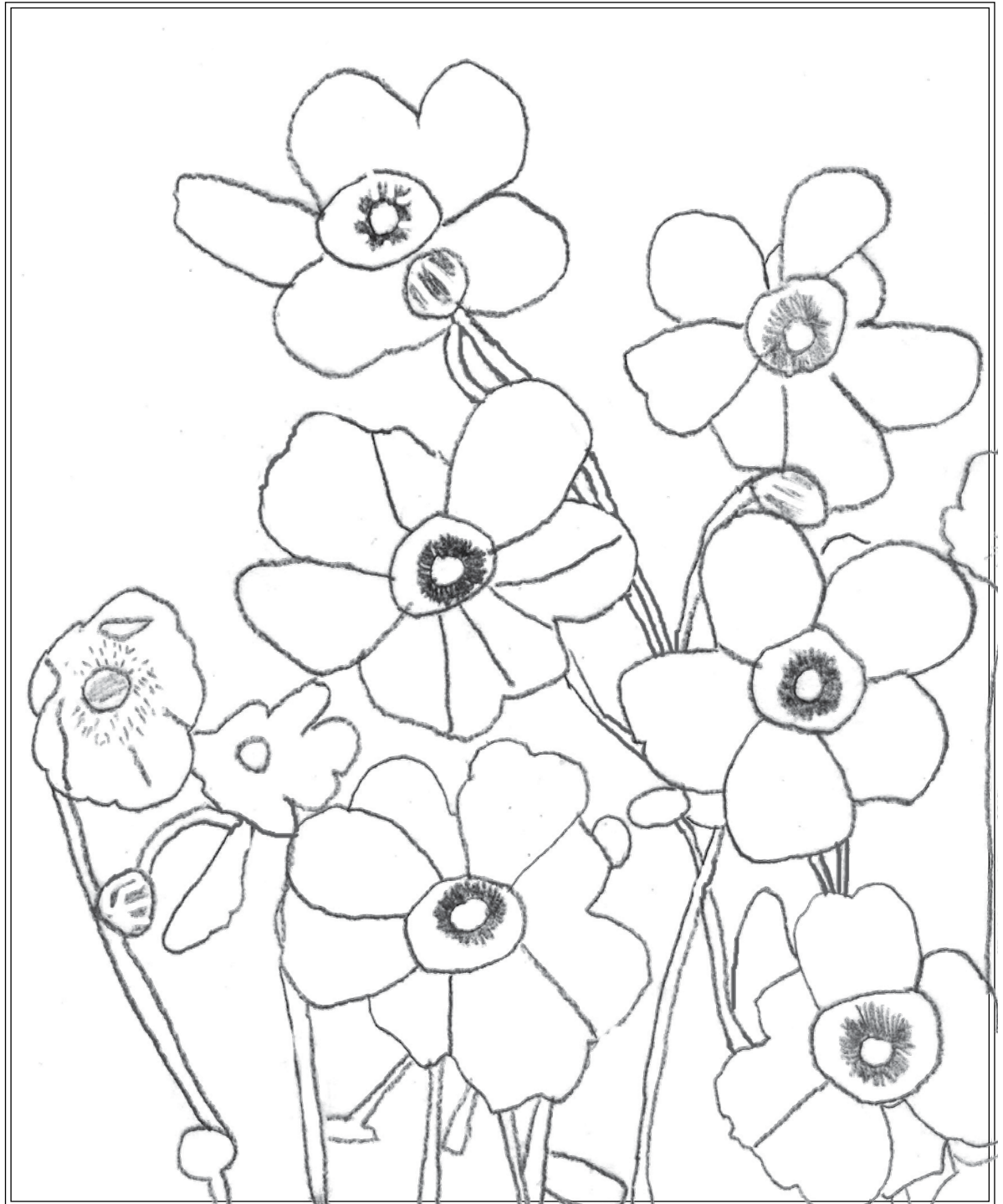
Growing Conditions:

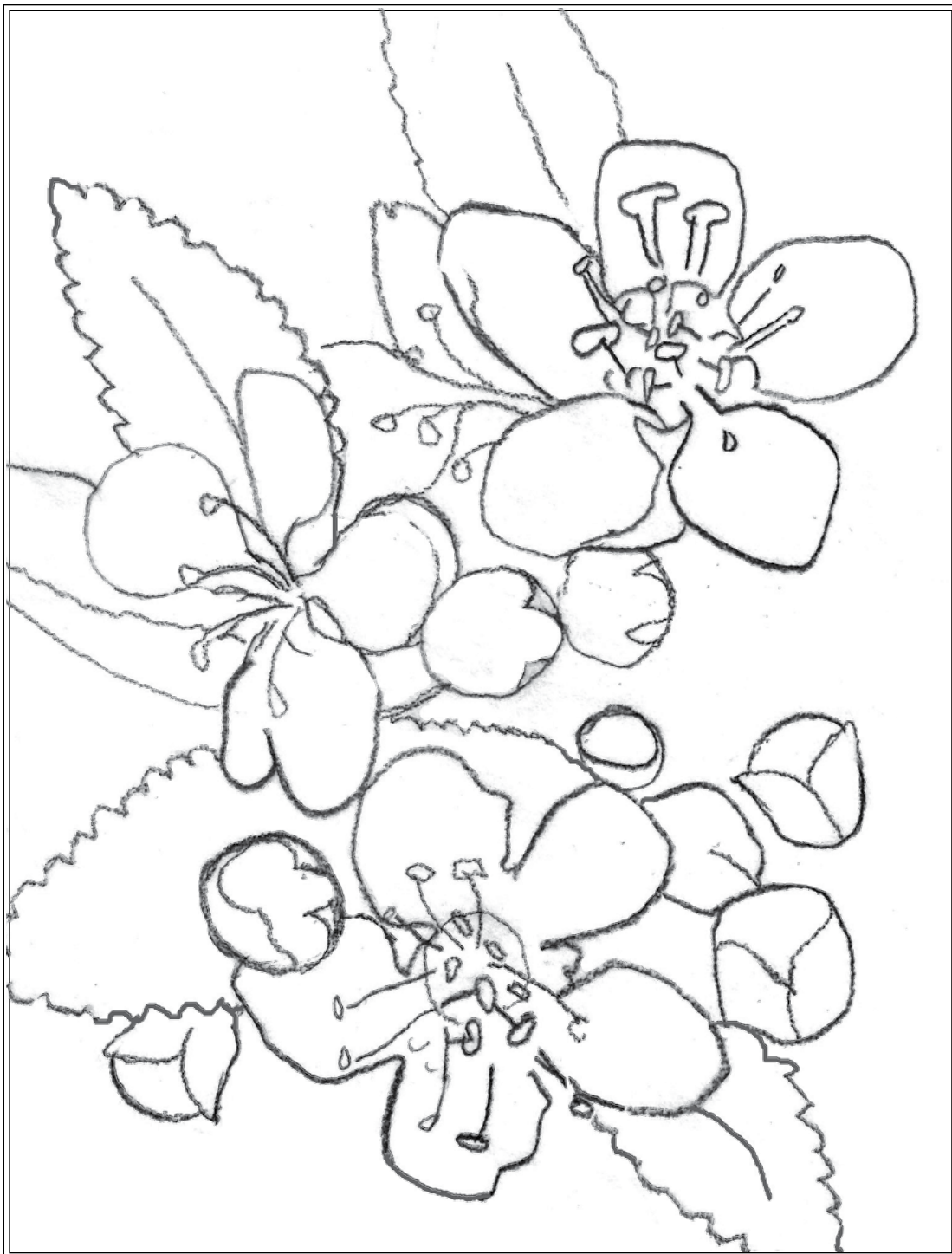
Prefers partial shade or partial sun and well-drained, acidic soil. They are particularly sensitive to drought and over-watering. Watch these flowers closely as they tend to reseed and spread.

Fun Facts: Originally from China, this flower was introduced to Japan where it was revered and cultivated for centuries. In 1843, Robert Fortune discovered the flower in a Shanghai graveyard and sent it home to England where it was quickly adopted and bred.

Coloring Tips:

Look to the bold words above and back page for color cues.





Chokeberry (shrub)

Chokeberry, also known as Aronia, is a shrub *native* to eastern North America, growing 3 to 6 feet in height. It is extremely hardy and resistant, thriving in many locations. It is best to purchase this shrub at your local nursery.

Characteristics:

Slim, smooth, **brown-red twigs** support oval, **dark green leaves** with finely serrate edges and clusters of small, **violet-pink flowers** comprised of five petals. In the fall, the shrub produces edible berries, and its **leaves turn a vibrant red**.

Growing Conditions:

Prefers moist, peat-sand soil but will do well in a variety of soils. Prefers full sun, which is best for fruit production.

Fun Facts:

The name “chokeberry” comes from the astringency of the fruits, which create a sensation making one’s mouth pucker. Berries are widely used for food production and can be found in jam, syrup, juice, tea, salsa, and ice cream.

Coloring Tips:

Look to the bold words above and back page for color cues.

Oakleaf Hydrangea (shrub)

Oakleaf Hydrangea is *native* to the Southeastern U.S. but does well in Pittsburgh. It has long, cone-shaped flower clusters and grows 4 to 12 feet tall.

Characteristics:

Early summer flowers are usually **white** but can change to **pink or a golden brown** as they dry in the fall. Large, broadly lobed leaves, similar in shape to oak leaves, are very attractive in fall when the leaves turn **red, bronze, and violet**. Leaves have a coarse texture with a felt underside. The bark exfoliates, exposing a **cinnamon brown** color.

Growing Conditions:

Prefers moist, well-drained soil. Mulch is recommended. Plants prefer a mix of sun and shade. This shrub grows by root runners, so it needs 6 feet between them.

Fun Facts:

Flowers can be dried and are good for crafts and dried flower arrangements. Pick over several weeks for a range of colors.

Coloring Tips:

Look to the bold words above and back page for color cues.





Dogwood (tree)

Dogwood Trees are a favorite ornamental tree with their spring color and compact shape. They are *native* to the eastern U.S.

Characteristics:

The flowers range from **white to pink or red** and bloom about two to four weeks in early spring. In the summer, their **foliage is a rich green**. In the fall, leaves turn **reddish violet**, followed by **red berries** in winter. They grow to 20–30 feet.

Growing Conditions:

Plant for afternoon shade in late fall or early spring. They grow best in well-drained, humus-rich, slightly acidic soil. Once established, care is relatively easy. Consult a gardening guide to give your tree a good start.

Fun Facts:

Thomas Jefferson planted Dogwood trees at his home in Monticello, Virginia, leading to the tree taking off in popularity. The name “Dogwood” derived from “Dagwood,” because its slender stems were used for making daggers.

Coloring Tips:

Look to the bold words above and back page for color cues. Look online or in a book on butterflies for coloring the Monarch butterflies depicted here.

Eastern Redbud (tree)

Beautiful in all seasons, the Eastern Redbud's pink and violet blossoms mark the beginning of spring. Its irregular branching patterns create a very handsome, spreading crown. Even in winter, covered with snow, the Eastern Redbud is stunning.

Characteristics:

Its profusion of **red-violet flowers with pink wings** appear in April and early May, making a bold landscape statement. The heart-shaped, **shamrock green leaves** can be up to 5 inches. Flat, **green seedpods** complement its rough, **reddish bark**. This hardy tree is ideal for small yards and city-scapes, growing 25–35 feet.

Growing Conditions:

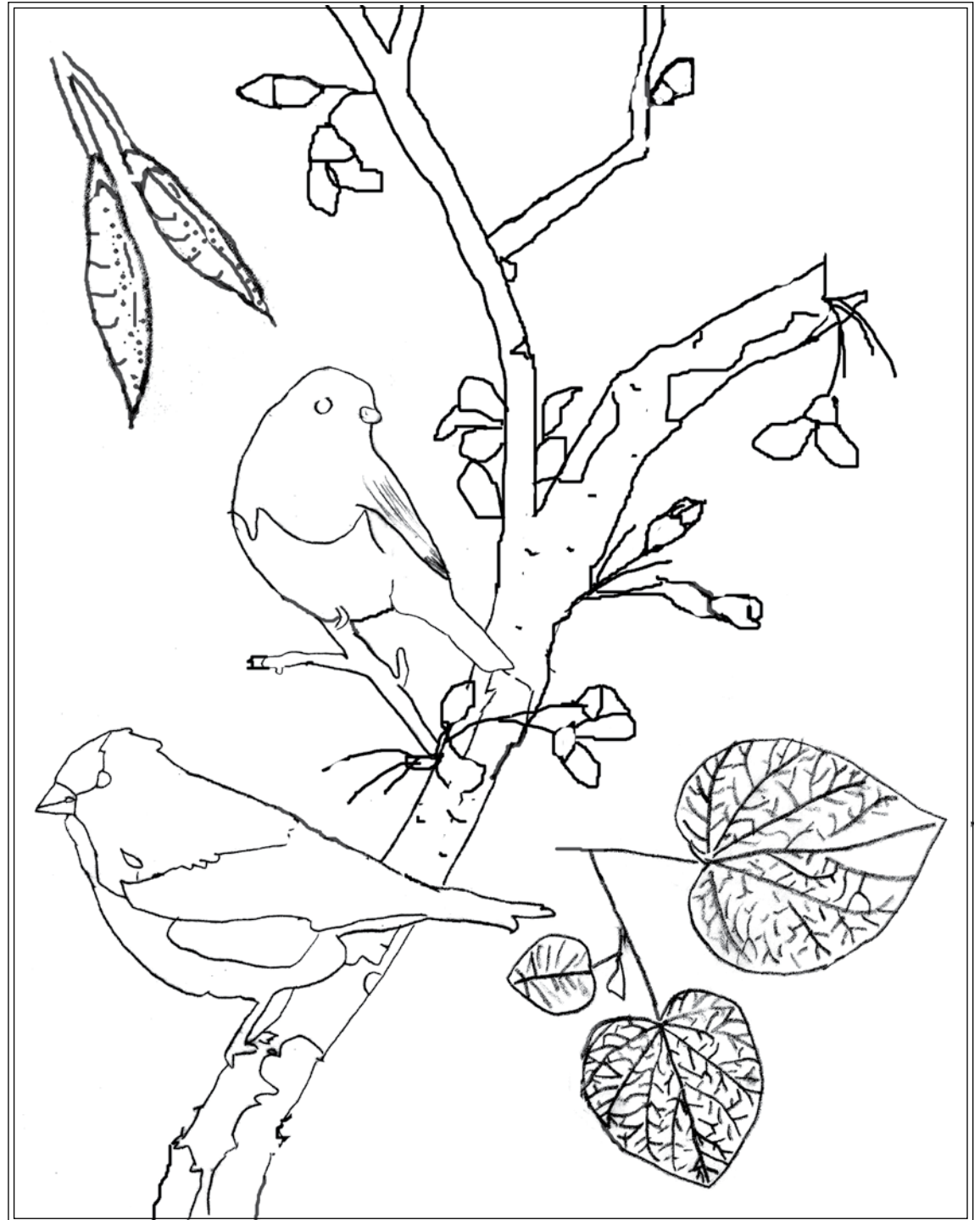
Can grow in full sun or light shade with well-drained soil from sandy to clay. Can also be grown in a large container.

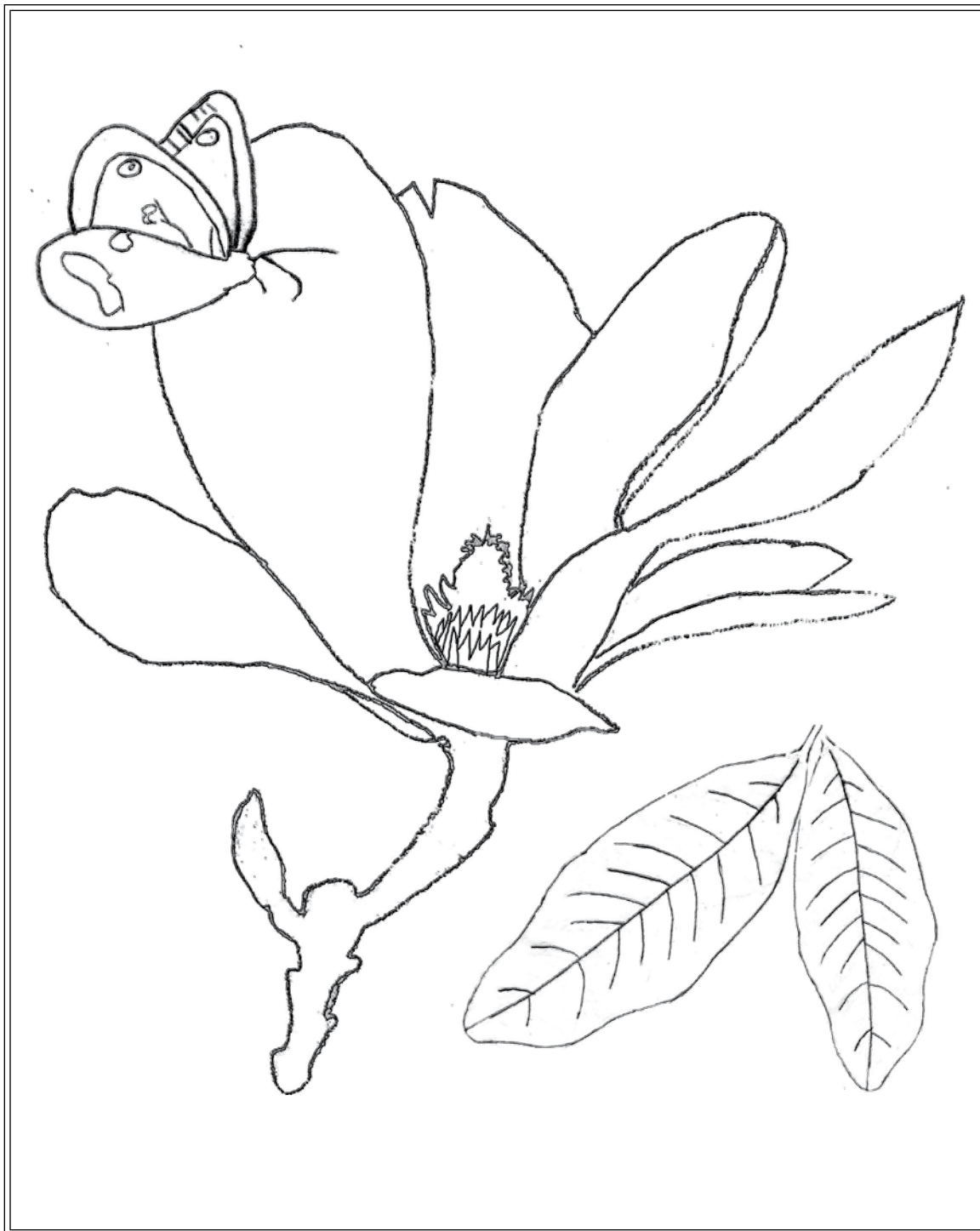
Fun Facts:

The flowers are edible and can be used in salads, sautéed, or pickled. Birds like them too. Attracts butterflies.

Coloring Tips:

Look to the bold words above and back page for color cues for this tree and the birds: Eastern Bluebird (top) and Goldfinch.





Saucer Magnolia (tree)

The Magnolia is a large group of around 210 varieties of flowering trees and large shrubs. The most common of these varieties is the Saucer Magnolia. This tree is a hybrid that was bred to be hardy and withstand the cold of eastern winters.

Characteristics:

This *deciduous* tree can grow 20–30 feet. Its **bark has a silvery hue**, with thick, shiny **dark green leaves**, and large cupped or saucer-like flowers that bloom in **white, pink, or purple**. The flowers appear in early spring when the tree is still bare, with the leaves filling in shortly after. The flowers can last into summer with the leaves continuing until fall.

Growing Conditions:

Prefers full sun with a minimum of six hours of direct sunlight a day. This Magnolia grows well in a variety of soils, preferring moist, well-drained areas.

Fun Facts:

The Magnolia is an ancient genus and is theorized to pre-date the appearance of bees. The tree evolved to be pollinated by beetles, and so the pistils of its flowers are incredibly tough. The tree is considered a living fossil that dates back 20 million years.

Coloring Tips:

Look to the bold words above and back page for color cues. Look online or in a book on moths for coloring the moth depicted here.

Serviceberry (tree)

Serviceberry, also known as Shadbush, is a small tree growing 15–25 feet in height. This tree does well in cities and parks. It displays bunches of small **white** flowers in the spring and produces berries in early summer.

Characteristics:

Oval leaves are thick with finely serrate edges.

Dark, green leaves in spring and summer turn **red and gold** in the fall. Bark is **brownish grey** and smooth. Berries ranging from **red to blue violet** are similar in shape to blueberries and grow on long stems in bunches.

Growing Conditions: Prefers full sun and partial shade. Likes acidic, moist but well-drained soil.

Fun Facts: Berries can be eaten raw or made into pies or preserves. They have a taste similar to blueberries with seeds that have an almond flavor. Birds like them too, so pick them fast!

Coloring Tips:

Look to the bold words above and back page for color cues.



Community Resources

Gardening Resources

Agrecycle Pittsburgh
335 N Braddock Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15208
412-767-7645
agrecycle.com

Providing 100% recycled material compost and producing a variety of soil amending products at low costs.

Grow Pittsburgh Garden Resource Center
147 Putnam St. Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412-362-4769 x 115
growpittsburgh.org

Sharing gardening tips and techniques and providing garden tools, materials, compost and seeds to the community for an annual fee. Scholarships available.

Tree Pittsburgh
5401 Butler St. Pittsburgh, PA 15201
412-781-8733
treepittsburgh.org

Offering low-cost classes, including tree identification, tree pruning and care, and their signature Tree Tenders program. Tree Pittsburgh also provides great volunteer opportunities for you and your family.

Purchasing Locations

These locations are closest to the East Liberty/Larimer community. Also look online for nurseries and garden centers near you.

City Grows
5208 Butler St. Pittsburgh, PA 15201
412-781-2082
citygrowspgh.com

A small Lawrenceville garden shop offering smaller scale organic plants, as well as sustainable, recycled, and repurposed products. A great resource for flower and vegetable seedlings in the spring.

Farmers' Markets in Pittsburgh
pittsburghpa.gov/citiparks/farmers-market

With 14 locations in the Pittsburgh area, Farmers Markets are a great, sustainable and inexpensive resource for plants and seedlings.

Shadyside Nursery
510 Maryland Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15232
412-363-5845
theshadysidenursery.com

A small family business in Shadyside offering a wide selection of seedlings, annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs as well as expert planting advice.

Books in Print

The following are available from the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, where you can find many more gardening books. Search their catalog (carnegielibrary.org) or ask a librarian for assistance.

Ball, Liz. *Month-by-month Gardening in Pennsylvania*. Franklin, TN: Cool Springs, 2001.

Ball, Liz. *Pennsylvania Gardener's Guide*. Franklin, TN: Cool Springs, 2002.

DiSabato-Aust, Tracy. *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden*. Portland, OR: Timber Press, 1998.

Edwards, Jonathan. *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Garden Techniques*. London: Lorenz Books, 2008.

Grimm, William Carey. *The Illustrated Book of Trees*. Harrisburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 1983.

Coloring Guide

Color is likely the primary reason we plant ornamental gardens. Flowers have the widest range of colors, but don't overlook the variety of greens in leaves and grasses. Bark has many subtle shades of reds, browns, violets, and greys. As the seasons change, so do the colors of flowers, bark, grasses, and twigs. Pay close attention to what attracts you and what you might like to have in your own garden.

When coloring the pages in our guide, we encourage you to learn about the plants by duplicating their natural colors. The thumbnails on this page are a starting point, and color cues are indicated in bold in the plant descriptions. A google image search will provide many images for reference, or check out some gardening books from your local library.

We recommend colored pencils for coloring the plant pages. You can buy an inexpensive colored pencil set, or go for a set that is a bit more expensive and provides a better range of colors. You can also supplement the colors in a set by buying additional individual pencils. Try layering colors to obtain the colors you want: Start with a "wash" of a light color (like yellow) followed by a darker color on top (like green). Use a light hand and build up thin layers of color, so the color underneath shows through. The colors will appear lighter and more luminous if you do this. You can photocopy the coloring pages to try different techniques and so everyone can join in.

Most importantly, have fun and use the coloring pages as a way for the entire family to learn about plants and gardening. Discuss what plants you like best and which you might want to plant. Planning a garden is a great activity for the entire family that will blossom year after year.



Lamium



Myrtle



Black-Eyed Susan



Coneflower



Hellebore



Anemone



Chokeberry



Oakleaf Hydrangea



Dogwood



Eastern Redbud



Saucer Magnolia



Serviceberry



Ruby-throated
Hummingbird



Goldfinch



Eastern Bluebird

Credits

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Our Partners:

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