Period Gardens at Miller-Cory House Museum

New Jersey Native Plants & Children's Sensory Garden

Colonial Herb & Vegetable Gardens

Dye & Fern Gardens

Heirloom Trees & Shrubs



Miller-Cory House Museum Westfield, New Jersey www.millercoryhouse.org

New Jersey Native Plants and Children's Sensory Garden



Plants in this garden are native to the northeast, or were introduced by early settlers to the area. They have been selected here for their sensory characteristics, i.e. smell, taste, and touch. Many of these plants also shared medici-

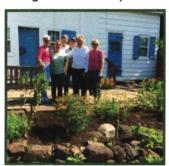
nal and culinary uses during the colonial period. The garden was established in 2004 by the Rake &Hoe Garden Club of Westfield (R&HGC). Specimens in the garden include:

Native Perennials

Anise Hyssop, Agastache foeniculum
Aster (New York), Aster novi-belgii
Pot Marigold, Calendula officinalis
Coneflower, Echinacea purpurea
Horsetail, Equisetum hymenale
Rattlesnake Master, Eryngium yuccifolium
Lemon Balm, Melissa officinalis
Bee Balm, Monarda didyma
Sweet Cicely, Myrrhis odorata
Bloodroot, Sanguinaria canadensis
Soapwort, Saponaria officinalis
Lamb's Ears, Stachys byzantine
Thyme, Thymus vulgaris

Native Shrubs

Shadbush(Serviceberry), Amelanchier canadensis Butterfly Weed, Asclepias tuberose New Jersey Tea, Ceanothus americanus Inkberry, Ilex glabra Bayberry, Myrica sp. Highbush Blueberry, Vaccinium corymbosum



Spring cleanup at the Children's Sensory Garden by members of R&HGC.

Colonial Herb & Vegetable Gardens

The **herb garden** by the well house hosts a variety of perennial herbs used during colonial times. In addition to

their widespread culinary and medicinal uses, herbs were also used for personal hygiene and when dried, placed throughout the house to mask off-odors, especially during the long winter months. The garden is organized into 4



areas: culinary, medicinal, fragrant and bee-attracting. An inscribed walkway runs through the garden, established in 2015 with memorial donations to Miller-Cory House Museum.

Chives, Allium schoenoprasum
Tarragon, Artemisia dracunculus
Wormwood, Artemisia ludoviciana
Fennel, Foeniculum vulgare
Lavender, Lavandula sp.
Lemon Balm, Melissa officinalis
Mint, Mentha sp.
Love-in-a-Mist, Nigella damascena
Oregano, Origanum vulgare
Rosemary, Rosmarinus officinalis
Sage, Salvia officinalis
Winter Savory, Satureja montana
Lamb's Ear, Stachys byzantine
Feverfew, Tanacetum parthenium
Thyme, Thymus vulgaris



The **vegetable garden** by the corn crib provides examples of plants from a cook's garden in colonial times. These would be planted to provide fresh vegetables throughout the growing season. Surplus crops would be canned or dried for use during the winter. Some examples are:



Swiss Chard, Beta vulgaris
Kohlrabi, Brassica oleracea
Carrots, Daucus carota subsp. sativus
Pole Beans, Phaseolus vulgaris
Peas, Pisum sativum
Radishes, Raphanus sativus
Rhubarb, Rheum rhabarbarum
Spinach, Spinacia oleracea
Lettuce - all varieties in spring & fall

Colonial Dye Garden

Local plants were used early on to dye wool and textiles, often borrowing from local Indian customs. Native trees and shrubs used included butternut (bark & roots), black walnut, choke cherry, sassafras, sumac, and berry bushes. Perennials included those in the dye garden:

Yarrow, Achillea millefolium
Butterflyweed, Aesclepias tuberosa
False Indigo, Baptisia australis
Coneflower, Echinacea sp.
Blue Flag, Iris versicolor
Downy Phlox, Phlox pilosa
Mayapple, Podophyllum peltatum
Bloodroot, Sanguinaria canadensis



Native Fern Garden

Ferns provide a protective ground cover in shady areas and help to stabilize soils on slopes. This shady spot showcases a number of species native to the northeast.



Maidenhair Fern, Adiantum pedatum Ostrich Fern, Matteuccia struthiopteris Cinnamon Fern, Osmunda cinnamomea Interrupted Fern, Osmunda claytoniana Christmas Fern, Polystichum acrostichoide

Other Heirloom Plantings

On the street side of the Miller-Cory house, heirloom

apple trees are planted where once an orchard stood. In colonial times, fruits not consumed during harvest would be cidered and cellared for use through the winter months.

Next to the front entrance, left, are heirloom roses and ornamental herbs of the period. These surround a beautiful arbor of hops. Hops



(Humulus lupulus) is best known for its use in beer fermentation. In addition to their antibacterial and flavoring properties, hops have been used medicinally over the centuries to treat a wide range of ailments.

History & Background

The Miller-Cory House Museum is a restored circa 1740 farmhouse in historic Westfield. It is listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places and is a site on the New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail. From its location on a road well traveled even in present times, it witnessed the British retreat from the Jersey militia during the Revolutionary War and served as a homestead to two prominent local families, Miller and Cory.

Today, the Miller-Cory farmhouse serves as a living museum of colonial America. With its many educational programs, it offers a wide array of opportunities to learn about our past, especially activities associated with daily life during colonial times.

The grounds surrounding the farmhouse include an orchard with 18th century fruit trees, vegetable and herb gardens, and a dye garden with plants that might have been used during colonial times.

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield (R&HGC) established a new garden area in 2004, to the right of the house entrance, comprised of native plants and perennials for the senses, (NJ Native Plants and Children's Sensory Garden). Funding for the gardens was provided through matching grants from the Miller-Cory House Museum and The Principal Financial Group, Inc.. The R&HGC continues to maintain these gardens.

The herb and vegetable gardens are located to the far right and front of the farmhouse entrance. These are maintained by museum volunteers and the Master Gardening program of Union county. Dye and fern gardens lie behind the house. Fruit-bearing trees and other heirloom shrubs stand to the left of the building.

Plantings have been selected for their historic usefulness to a colonial family. Whenever possible, native plants or introduced species that were available in the 18th century have been planted. Many of these, albeit usually more recent cultivars, can still be found in residential gardens throughout the northeast. It is hoped that a new and greater appreciation for both nature and history will "take root" in those who visit the gardens.





Miller-Cory House Museum 614 Mountain Avenue Westfield, New Jersey (908) 232-1776 www.millercoryhouse.org

Special Thanks to:

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Members of Rake & Hoe Garden Club of Westfield

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www.ucnj.org/rutgers-cooperative-extension-ofunion-county/

