

Campus Gardens & Arboretum



A Capen Garden

Located on the northeast edge of campus, this garden is essential for teaching horticulture. Features include a rustic rose arbor, perennial beds, a knot garden, and fountain. A formal gazebo, honoring Jill Ker Conway, hosts a spectacular spring display of tulips and colorful summer annuals.

B The President's Residence Gardens

Gardens surround and beautify the 1920s house: an enclosed herb garden, annual displays, perennial borders, and collections of peonies and clematis. Offering panoramic views of Paradise Pond and Mount Tom, the gardens are at their best in May and June.



C Wildflower and Woodland Garden

Understory trees, shrubs, ferns, and wildflowers grow under a mature canopy of native hardwoods and conifers in the wooded ravine below the President's house. A path with bridges over the stream provides a means through the woodlands. Best seen in early spring.



The Campus Arboretum

The entire Smith campus is a living museum of over 1,200 woody plants. The collection is used for study and research, while at the same time providing a pastoral environment for learning and

enjoyment. For more information on our trees please purchase a copy of our tree guide.

D The Japanese Garden for Reflection and Contemplation

Built in the 1980s on a wooded slope, the area incorporates elements of Japanese design within the context of a New England setting. It features rocks from the surrounding countryside, representing events from the life of Buddha, and stone statues and lanterns.



E Mary Maples Dunn Garden

Dedicated in 2001, the Mary Maples Dunn Hillside Garden honors the eighth president of Smith College, who was a key figure in the establishment of the Smith College Landscape Master Plan. This garden displays plants with colorful foliage and winter interest.

F The Systematics Garden and Perennial Border

Beds are arranged by plant family, allowing students to observe and compare flower types and growth forms. Each bed features economically important, botanically interesting, or ornamental species. The adjacent Ruth Brown Richardson Perennial Border extends along the wrought iron fence.



G The Rock Garden

Home to about 2,000 alpine, dwarf, and woodland plants, this garden is the most intensively cultivated area on campus. The

Garden was created in 1897 and is modeled after the rock garden at Kew Gardens in London. It is at its peak in April and May.