



# PHS Meadowbrook Farm



## Gardener's Statement

PHS Meadowbrook Farm is a historic landmark in Meadowbrook, Pennsylvania, built in 1936 by renowned horticulturist J. Liddon Pennock Jr. It spans 21 acres of stunning green space, featuring two distinct garden locations.

The first showcases a variety of naturalistic style plantings, while the second offers a loosely formal design. Both locations are situated on a large hillside, providing unique topographical features and viewing perspectives.

Upon entering the parking lot you are immediately surrounded by several garden beds, some with similar dry growing conditions. Notable features include the Cacti and Succulent Gardens, which house hardy cacti/succulents and perennials like *Gypsophila paniculata* 'Bristol Fairy'. The Xeric Garden, a rectangular bed in the middle of the parking lot, features plants that require minimal irrigation and rely on rainfall. Other xeric garden beds can be found throughout the property. Additionally, there is a gravel garden called the Cacti and Succulent Garden and a Rain Garden with intentional retention basins that collect rainwater, supporting plants like *Lobelia cardinalis*, *Physostegia virginiana*, and *Carex elata* 'Bowle's Golden'.

On the uphill side of the parking lot, you'll find the entrance to the Pollinator Garden, intentionally planted with native species that offer nectar for bees, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds, and other insects. Adjacent to it is the entrance to the more formal Display Garden bordered by large wooden columns for hanging baskets and vines.



Following the walkway you'll reach the driveway leading to the main house and gardens.

The main objective of the Display Garden is to showcase the diversity of the gardening, ensuring there's something in bloom throughout the season. The plant palette combines native and non-native plants, including hardy annuals, biennials, perennials, bulbs (hardy and non-hardy), tender perennials, and tropical plants. This diverse selection offers interesting foliage, texture, and flower combinations, inspiring visitors for their own gardens or containers.

At the top of the driveway, the area is designed with garden rooms. The Pennock House front courtyard garden features three long rectangular beds planted for seasonal interest. Other garden rooms have various-sized beds for seasonal plantings, such as the Eagle Garden with three *Magnolia grandiflora* specimens and two topiary specimens of *Tsuga canadensis* American hemlock. Noteworthy features include a stone wall garden, a trough garden in the Queens Garden showcasing miniature perennials, and a range of plant combinations

tailored to specific light conditions (part shade, full shade, part sun, full sun, and dappled shade).

The estate also boasts two pools. The Dipping Pool, built in the 1970s, is a small pool next to the Eagle Garden, featuring a jacuzzi and a water-spouting frog. The main swimming pool in the Pool Garden, constructed in the 1950s, includes a gazebo with a Chestnut Hill stone façade and a copper roof. The Corinthian columns surrounding the pool are from Mr. Pennock's 1989 Philadelphia Flower Show exhibit.

Throughout the gardens and property you'll find strategically placed benches where you can relax and enjoy the beautiful sights, scents, and sounds of this delightful garden oasis. We hope you have a wonderful experience.



# Plants of Interest Spring



## KEY



Sun



Partial Shade



Shade



PHS Gold Medal Plant



Perennial



Annual



Pollinator

## PARKING LOT HILL GARDEN BED



*Lunaria annua* 'Munstead Purple,'  
Money Plant.  
Native to Europe & Western Asia. Biennial.



## DISPLAY GARDEN



*Primula vulgaris*  
'Nectarine,'  
Primrose.  
Native to Europe.



*Echium candicans*,  
Pride of Madeira.  
Native to Madeira & Canary Islands.



*Lysimachia atropurpurea*  
'Beaujolais,' Purple  
Gooseneck Loosestrife.  
Native to North America.



## RAIN GARDEN



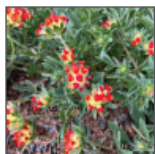
*Leucojum aestivum*  
'Gravetye Giant,'  
Summer Snowflake.  
Native to Europe.



## ROCK GARDEN



*Iberis sempervirens*,  
Candytuft.  
Native to Southern Europe.



*Anthyllis vulneraria* var.  
*coccinea*,  
Kidney Vetch.  
Native to Europe.



## VISITORS CENTER



*Cheiranthus linifolium*  
'Little Kiss Lilac,'  
Shrubby Wallflower.  
Garden Origin.



*Euphorbia characias*  
subsp. *wulfenii* 'Dwarf,'  
Spurge.  
Native to Southern Europe.



*Beschorneria yuccoides*,  
Mexican Lily.  
Native to Mexico.



## PENNOCK HOUSE (FRONT COURTYARD)



*Erysimum cheiri* 'Vulcan,'  
Wallflower.  
Native to UK.



*Brassica oleracea* var.  
*gongyolodes* 'Azur Star,'  
Kohlrabi.  
Native to Europe.



## HERB GARDEN



*Beta vulgaris* 'Heart of  
Gold,'  
Swiss Chard.  
Native to Europe.



*Lathyrus odoratus*  
'Painted Lady,'  
Sweet Pea.  
Native to England.



## BLOOMING THROUGHOUT THE GROUNDS



*Tulipa* 'La Belle Époque,'  
Tulip. Native to Holland.



## QUEEN'S GARDEN



*Viola cornuta* 'Bowles  
Black,'  
Violet.  
Native to Pyreneese.



*Brassica oleracea* var.  
*acephala*,  
Japanese Flowering Kale.  
Native to Japan.



*Matthiola incana* 'Iron  
Apricot,'  
Stock.  
Native to Japan.



## EAGLE GARDEN



*Erysimum cheiri* 'Fire King,'  
Wallflower.  
Native to UK.



*Daphniphyllum*  
*macropodium* var. *humilis*,  
Dwarf Daphniphyllum.  
Native to East Asia.



*Trachycarpus fortunei*,  
Windmill Palm.  
Native to China & Japan.



## CIRCLE GARDEN



*Cerinthe major* 'Kiwi Blue,'  
Honeywort.  
Native to Mediterranean.



## LOWER TERRACE



*Antirrhinum majus*  
'Chantilly Light Salmon,'  
Snapdragon. Native to  
Mediterranean.



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