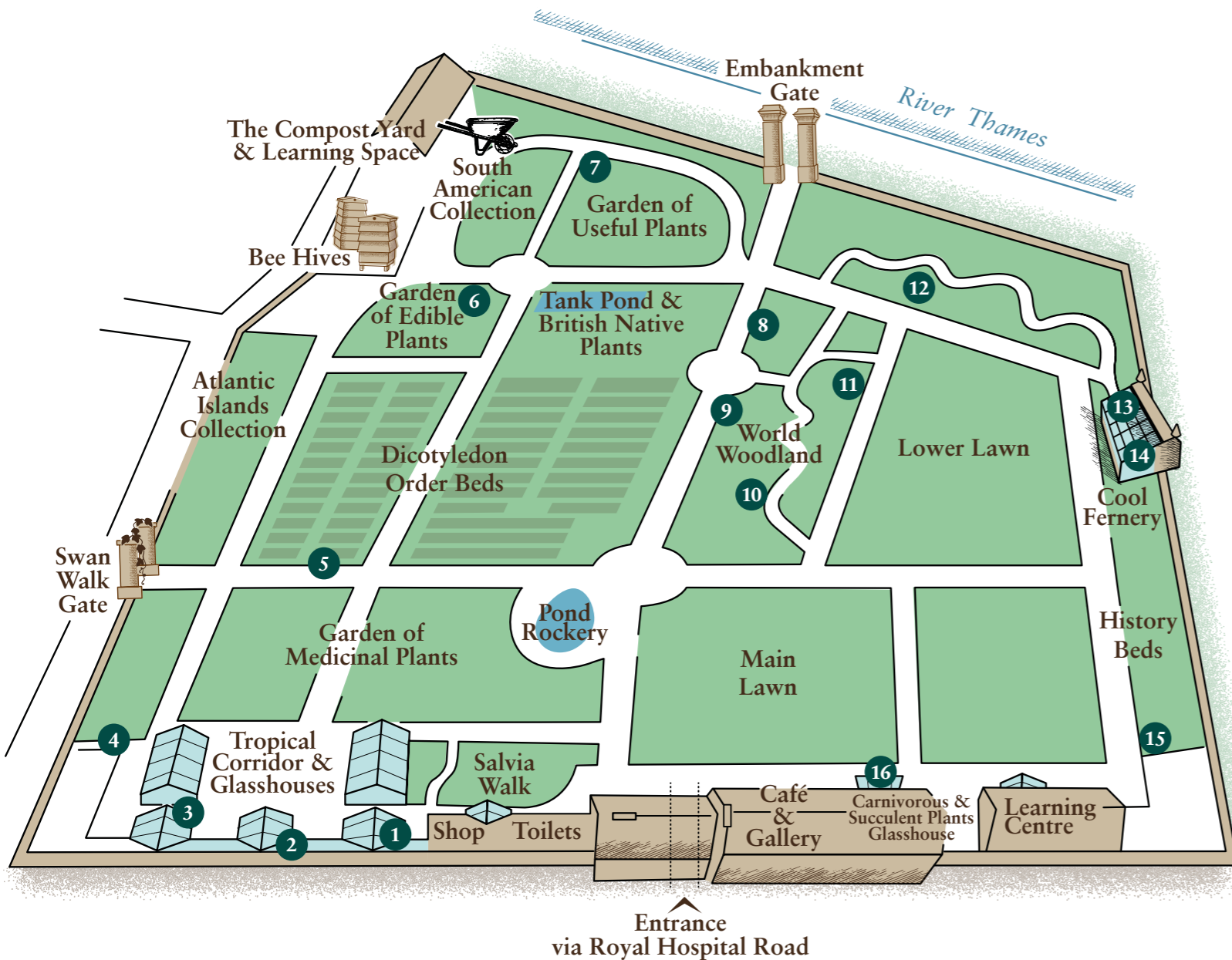


Use this map to follow our trail around the Garden celebrating winter and early spring plants, plus a selection growing in our historic glasshouses. Look out for the numbered Spring Trail labels next to the plants.



1. *Castanea sativa*

In 2023 our Glasshouses were restored. This paler and more sustainable sweet chestnut wood sourced from the UK was used for the repairs. You can see it here spliced against the original Burmese teak, *Tectona grandis*. The tree from which we get sweet chestnut grows here in the Garden. See 15 for the living specimen.

2. *Curcuma longa*

The rhizome, underground stem, of the turmeric plant contains the pigment curcumin. Curcumin gives the turmeric rhizome its yellow colour. It is used in paints and to dye textiles.

3. *Delosperma lehmannii*

This succulent is also known as the ice plant. It is frost hardy and some say it shimmers as if covered in ice crystals. It is hairless and has thick angular leaves. Surprisingly it develops bright yellow daisy-like flowers.

4. *Citrus x aurantium* Grapefruit Group

This grapefruit tree is over 70 years old. It grows in a sheltered position against a south facing wall. It gets lots of sun to ripen the fruit that grow all year round.

5. *Acer griseum*

This small ornamental tree is known as the paperbark maple. The bark peels away from the tree to reveal paler bark beneath. In low and bright winter light, the peeling bark shines bright red!

6. *Vicia faba*

Sown in autumn, these broad beans are hardy and survive cold temperatures to provide an early spring harvest. Beans and pea plants boost nitrogen levels in the soil. The soil is then ideal for growing leafy vegetables in the following season.

7. *Chimonanthus praecox* Grandiflorus Group

Commonly known as wintersweet, this plant originates from China. It has heavily scented flowers which provide nectar in the winter. This vital supply of food supports pollinating insects such as bees and flies when there are few other plants in flower for them to feed on.

8. *Eranthis hyemalis*

Also known as winter aconite, this plant is one of the earliest to flower in the year. It emerges from the ground, produces bright yellow flowers and reproduces very quickly before dying back to the ground ready to repeat the process next year.

9. *Galanthus* spp. (snowdrops)

We grow a wide range of snowdrops and different varieties flower at different times of the year, from November through to late March.

10. *Leucojum aestivum* subsp. *aestivum*

Leucojums are in the same family as snowdrops, Amaryllidaceae. They are known as snowflakes. Snowflakes are much larger than snowdrops, they have bell-shaped flowers and each tepal has green spots on the end.

11. *Sarcococca ruscifolia* var. *ruscifolia*

The common name sweet box was given to this plant because it produces small clusters of highly fragrant flowers. The fruit of this shrub is dark red in colour. You will see and smell many more sweet boxes around the Garden.

12. *Galanthus nivalis*

This is the common snowdrop. It grows in deciduous woodland in winter, after the trees have dropped their leaves. The bulb contains galantamine, a chemical compound that increases acetylcholine levels in the human brain, needed for memory and thought. It is used in the treatment and management of Alzheimer's disease, which affects memory, thinking and behaviour.

13. *Trichomanes speciosum*

The leaf of a fern is called a frond. The fronds of these filmy ferns are only one cell thick! Keeping these ferns enclosed is preferred because they are delicate plants that will dry out if not constantly wet.

14. *Soleirolia soleirolii*

Though not a fern, this plant grows well in moist and shaded areas. It spreads and forms a dense carpet. It can be grown indoors making it a popular houseplant.

15. *Castanea sativa*

The wood of this species of tree, sweet chestnut, was used in the restoration of our glasshouses. The tree produces chestnuts, which are a popular nut to roast and eat in winter.

16. Insectivorous bench

Restored in 2023, this bench inside the conservatory is home to numerous insectivorous plants. They can thrive in low nutrient environments because they get their nutrition from the insects they eat! They attract insects with odour or sweet sticky liquids.