



# Mission: Plant-Possible

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to find all of the different plant species below located around your Akron Zoo. Bring your completed scavenger hunt form to the office located in the Barnhardt Family Welcome Center and receive your passport stamp. Return each season to complete the next mission and fill your passport book to win a prize!

**\*plant location not necessarily in order**

1. This tree is part of the succulent family! The leaves are large and deeply lobed. It grows a fruit enjoyed by many around the world, especially in Mexico and central America, which forms at the trunk and base of the leaves. The trunk of this tree is reminiscent of a palm tree upon maturity.

**Location: Legends of the Wild** \_\_\_\_\_

2. One of the most beautiful native trees, this species is commonly found in warmer climates. This tree can reach heights of 100 feet but rarely reaches above 50 to 60 feet tall, and is commonly found in dappled light or shady areas. It is most known for its leathery oblong shaped leaves and its beautiful large white fragrant flowers.

**Location: Legends of the Wild** \_\_\_\_\_

3. This full-sun beauty is a common landscape flower known for its hardy nature and resiliency in hot weather. It is native to Brazil where it is considered a perennial, but here in our cooler climate, it is an annual. Planting this species is a great way to attract pollinators to your garden in both butterflies, bees, and humming birds.

**Location: Carousel Plaza** \_\_\_\_\_

4. Native to the tropics and sub-tropics, this plant can add that tropical flare to any area they are planted. They are known for their large, lush and slightly striped leaves that contrast with the large bright flower produced from the axial of the stem with five petals spanning about 5 inches across. The color of this flower can vary from red, yellow, orange, pink and salmon. These plants love the sun and will be found where there is plenty of it.

**Location: Carousel Plaza** \_\_\_\_\_

5. A perennial native plant that belongs to the milkweed family. It has narrow leaves that are opposite of one another with reddish stems. The flowers are small, white and will form in dense clusters. Once the plant is done flowering, small bean-shaped pods will form containing the seeds. The seeds are attached to a silky material to help with wind dispersal of the seeds. Although the ingestion is toxic to many species, it is a great resource for pollinators.

**Location: Grizzly Ridge** \_\_\_\_\_

6. This plant is originally from southern Africa and can be found in the mirrored zoo environment. The flowers produced by the plant appear as a spike with a look like it is on fire. The flowers will bloom from early spring to late fall, appearing all throughout the foliage. The large amount of nectar produced by the flowers is enough to attract hummingbirds, orioles, and sunbirds. The foliage will remain evergreen throughout the year and this plant is notorious for being able to fight off pests and disease.

**Locations: Train** \_\_\_\_\_

7. This is a succulent ground cover native to South Africa, known for its vibrant, daisy-like flowers that range in colors from pink to purple. It thrives in dry, sandy soils and is well-adapted to arid climates, storing water in its succulent leaves. It is easy to propagate from seeds or cuttings and requires minimal maintenance once established, making it a popular choice for low-maintenance landscaping.

**Location: Pride of Africa** \_\_\_\_\_

8. This smaller variant gives off vibrant, yellow flowers. The stems grow clustered with long, thin leaves, giving it a mounding-like look. There are usually 7-8 yellow petals that come from the small yellow center of the plant. It can spread easily through rhizomes underground and / or by seed dispersal once the flower head is done. Deadheading the flowers in mid-summer may help induce blooms in the fall.

**Location: Pride of Africa** \_\_\_\_\_

9. One of the most popular fragrances used in candles, scented oils, and bath products comes from this plant. The characteristics of its aroma is known for its calming and relaxing effect it can have on those present in its vicinity. The leaves of this plant are simple and linear with soft texture. The flowers grow in clusters typically in white, pink, violet and blue.

**Location: Gardens** \_\_\_\_\_

10. Their flowers form in clusters with a red, orange, yellow, white or blue color palette. Pollinators are drawn to their vibrant flowers and possess an aromatic characteristic. These plants will bloom until the first frost and are hardy to high temperature, saline, and drought prone environment. The leaves have a rough texture with a soft hairy underside and a fine-toothed edge.

**Location: Gardens**

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11. These are herbaceous perennial plants known for their attractive foliage, which comes in a variety of colors, shapes, and sizes, ranging from blue-green to gold and variegated patterns. They are commonly grown in shady or partially shaded areas of gardens where they thrive due to their preference for moist, well-draining soil. They produce tall spikes of lavender, white, or light purple flowers in summer, although many gardeners grow them primarily for their foliage.

**Location: Gardens**

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12. With many different varieties, this native plant can take on multiple colors and flower densities. It is an upright stem with multiple flowers branching and blooming off the sides of the stalk. This particular plant has deep purple petals with a white/lavender center. The flowers are arranged with four petals on the bottom and one petal on the top. The leaves are palmate shaped and slightly fuzzy.

**Location: Prairie Town**

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13. A perennial native plant that is beautiful and fragrant. Its color is purple, but other cultivars can come in colors such as various pinks and reds. The petals look like multiple tube-like structures that disperse from the center of the plant. Multiple long, thin stems branch off from one plant. The leaves are opposite in structure and have a smooth texture to them. The flower and leaves of the plant smell like a sweet / mint aroma. It is a great source for pollinators such as bees, birds and hummingbirds.

**Location: Wild Asia**

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14. It is characterized by its spiky, metallic blue or silver-blue flowers surrounded by prickly bracts that resemble a thistle. It prefers full sun and well-drained soil, thriving in dry, rocky, or sandy conditions. It is drought-tolerant once established and attracts pollinators such as bees and butterflies to the garden with its unique appearance and nectar-rich flowers.

**Location: Wild Asia**

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15. There are many different varieties of this species, and many people use them as a staple annual plant in their flower beds. They can come in many colors such as red, white, pink, and salmon. The ones used for this "mission," match the color of the feathered zoo animals near it. They also get the nickname "touch-me-nots" due to the explosive nature of the mature seed pods. If they are touched, they will open and fling their seeds through their air.

**Location: Legends of the Wild** \_\_\_\_\_

