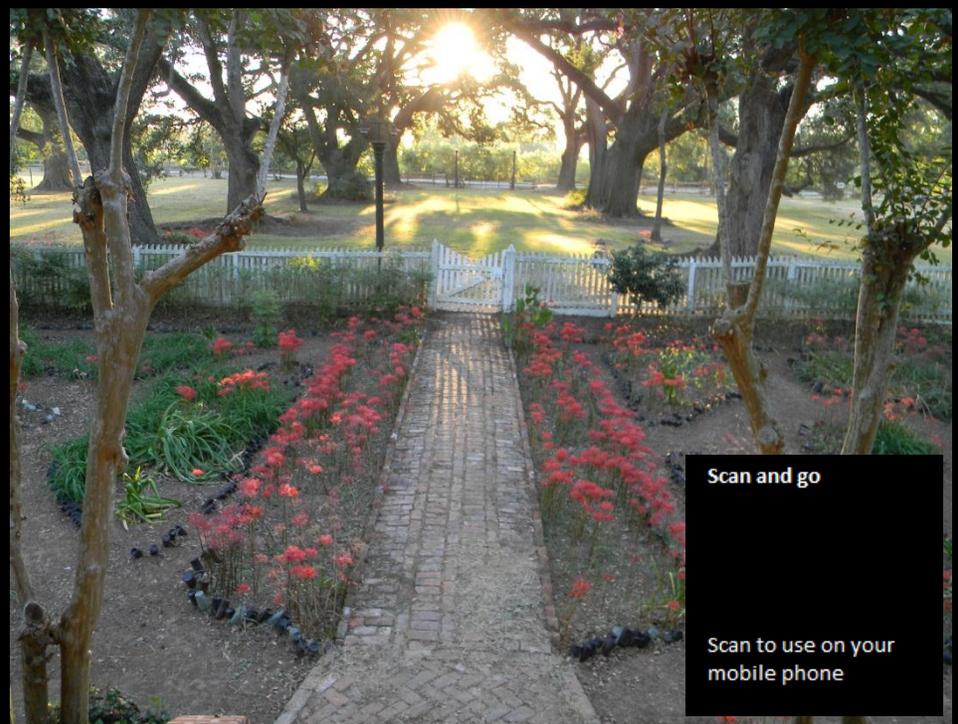




Cane River Creole National Historical Park Guide to Common Plants



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Oakland and Magnolia Plantations have been home to many plants during their existence. The following guide is intended to identify some of the plants located on the grounds of these two sites. This guide contains a small sample of the plant life found on these two plantations. If you have any additional questions about any of the other plants located in the park please contact a park ranger.



Cane River Creole NHP Plant Guide

Plant: Amaryllis

Scientific Name: *Hippeastrum striatum*

Location: Oakland – Bottle Garden

The amaryllis could be found blooming in the winter and spring. This flower is also known as the Barbados Lily.



Plant: Spider Lily

Scientific Name: *Lycoris radiata*

Location: Oakland – Bottle Garden

This plant, which is native to Japan, blooms in the early Fall. Another name for the spider lily is the hurricane lily because they bloom during the hurricane season.

Plant: Daylily

Scientific Name: *Lycoris hermerocallis*

Location: Oakland – Bottle Garden

Its Greek name, *Hermerocallis*, means beauty and day, because each flower lasts for less than 24 hours. There are over 38,000 varieties of daylilies.





Cane River Creole NHP Plant Guide

Plant: Flowering Quince

Scientific Name: *Chaenomeles speciosa*

Location: Oakland – Bottle Garden

The quince blooms in the winter. The flowering quince could be used as a bonsai tree. This shrub ushers in the beginning of spring because when it blooms most plants are usually bare.



Plant: Paperwhite Narcissus

Scientific Name: *Narcissus tazetta*

Location: Oakland-Doctor's House

This member of the daffodil family could be found blooming in spring. The plant is named after the character in Greek mythology that fell in love with his own reflection.

Plant: Camellia

Scientific Name: *Camellia japonica*

Location: Oakland – Bottle Garden

This evergreen located in front of the Oakland house could be seen flowering in winter or spring.





Cane River Creole NHP Plant Guide

Plant: Canna Lily

Scientific Name: *Canna indica*

Location: Oakland – Bottle Garden

This tropical plant is native to the West Indies. In the Caribbean they are regarded as a weed and is known as “Indian Shot.” Legend has it that the seeds were used as bullets during the 18th century. One seed found in Incan ruins sprouted 3500 years later.



Plant: Nandina

Scientific Name: *Nandina domestica*

Location: Oakland - Doctor’s House, Main House

Nandina, also called heavenly bamboo, has brilliant burgundy foliage in fall and winter. This plant produces poisonous berries in the fall.





Cane River Creole NHP Plant Guide

Plant: Southern Live Oak

Scientific Name: *Quercus virginiana*

Location: Oakland – Main House, Doctor’s House
Magnolia – Overseer’s House

The Southern Live Oak is native to the Southeastern United States. Known for their elegant branches they have become associated with the South. The oaks that were planted along the oak aleé helped funnel breezes to the house. According to family lore, the oaks at Oakland date back to the time of the Louisiana Purchase.



Plant: Pecan

Scientific Name: *Carya illinoensis*

Location: Oakland – various places,
Magnolia – various places



The pecan tree is native to the southern central portion of the United States. The pecan tree produces a nut that is included in many southern dishes, from pralines to pecan pie. Pecans are found throughout this area and are even grown as a crop. Little Eva plantation, located south of Cloutierville, has a large pecan orchard.



Cane River Creole NHP Plant Guide

Plant: Southern Magnolia
Scientific Name: *Magnolia grandiflora*
Location: Oakland - Main House

This flowering tree is native to the southeastern United States. It produces large white flowers that can be seen throughout the summer and fall. The flower that is produced is the state flower of Louisiana. Magnolias require beetles, rather than bees, for pollination.



Plant: Japanese Magnolia
Scientific Name: *Magnolia soulangiana*
Location: Oakland – Main House

This tree is known by many names including saucer magnolia, purple magnolia, or tulip tree magnolia. The tree actually originated in China. This tree blooms in early spring with tulip shaped flowers. Based on fossil records this species of tree dates back 50 million years.



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Plant: Jujube

Scientific Name: *Ziziphus jujuba*

Location: Oakland – fence row by store

This plant is called by many names including Zi-Zi and Chinese Dates. This species of tree is believed to have originated in southern Asia. The plant grows a small fruit similar to an apple that many local people love to eat. The fruit could also be used to create brandy, jellies, and jams. When mature, the fruit changes from green to brown color.



Plant: Common Fig

Scientific Name: *Ficus carica*

Location: Oakland – House

The fig tree is native to southwest Asia. This tree creates an edible fruit which can be found in the summer season. The fig was one of the first plants to be cultivated. Figs are considered ripe when they turn a dark brown.





Cane River Creole NHP Plant Guide

Plant: Crepe Myrtle

Scientific Name: *Lagerstroemia indica*

Location: Oakland – Main House

One of the most popular plants of the south, this plant is native to China. There are around 50 varieties of crepe myrtles. Depending of the variety, these trees produce flowers that are pink, white, red, and purple. The crepe myrtles at Oakland produce pink flowers in the summer months.



Plant: Eastern Red Cedar

Scientific Name: *Juniperus virginiana*

Location: Oakland – between pigeonniers

This evergreen is native to eastern North America. The cedar has a fine grained red wood. Its color and resistance to pest makes it a perfect wood to use in armoires and chests. This wood keeps insects, like moths, away from clothing.





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Plant: Chinaberry

Scientific Name: *Melia azedarach*

Location: Oakland – Main House

This plant is native to tropical Asia and Australia. This deciduous tree produces small purple flowers in the spring. The tree produces round yellow berries. These berries are poisonous to humans and small mammals. Today this plant is considered an invasive species in many places.



Plant: Osage Orange

Scientific Name: *Maclura pomifera*

Location: Oakland – Front Gate, Slave Quarters, Store

This plant goes by several names including Hedge Apple, Bowwood, and Bodark. The French called this tree the *bois d'arc*, meaning wood of the bow. This strong dense wood was often times used by the Native Americans to craft bows. These trees produce a fruit called a hedge apple. This fruit is inedible but the seeds found inside are edible. The fruit is commonly used as an insect-repellant.



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Plant: Southern Catalpa
Scientific Name: *Catalpa bignonioides*
Location: Oakland – Cook’s Cabin

The catalpa tree goes by many names including Catawba, bean tree, and Indian cigar tree. This tree produces seedpods that could grow as long as 18 inches. Flowers are produced in May. Caterpillars of the catalpa sphinx moth, found on these trees are highly prized fishing bait.



Plant: Bald cypress
Scientific Name: *Taxodium distichum*
Location: No longer in park

Although a cypress tree is not growing in this park, its wood is used to build many of the structures at Oakland and Magnolia. The bald cypress could grow as tall as 100 feet high. It is commonly found growing along or in water. Cypress wood is resistant to rot and insects. The bald cypress is the state tree of Louisiana.



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Plant: Sassafras

Scientific Name: *Sassafras albidum*

Location: Commonly found in nearby forested areas.

Sassafras is not found growing within the park but it is an important part of creole cuisine. The leaves of this tree are dried and ground to create filé. Filé was first introduced to the settlers in this area by Native Americans. Filé is used as a seasoning and thickening agent in gumbo. Sassafras leaves are also important in creating the original recipe of root beer.



Plant: River Cane

Scientific Name: *Arundinaria gigantea*

Location: Along the banks of the Cane River.

This plant grows along the banks of the Cane River and is the namesake of the river. The river cane is a type of bamboo that grows throughout the Southeastern portion of the United States. This cane is not seen in the park but is easily seen across the highway from Magnolia Plantation and along the Cane River Heritage Trail.



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Plant: Resurrection Fern

Scientific Name: *Polypodium polypodioides*

Location: Oakland & Magnolia – various trees

This fern could be seen growing along the branches of many trees in the park. This plant is an air plant meaning that it gets its nutrients the air and bark of the tree. This plant appears to look dead during dry seasons but “resurrects” itself when water is present. After a rainfall these plants turn green regardless of the time of year.



Plant: Spanish Moss

Scientific Name: *Tillandsia usneoides*

Location: Oakland & Magnolia – in bousillage used for construction

Although this plant is not found growing on trees in the park it is found in the bousillage used to build the structures. This moss is an air feeding plant that could be found in the Southeastern United States. It is culturally significant to early Creole culture because of its use in bousillage and in mattresses.



Cane River Creole NHP Plant Guide – Local Crops

Plant: Cotton

Scientific Name: *Gossypium hirsutum*

Location: Nearby Agricultural Fields

Cotton was grown on both Magnolia and Oakland plantations as a cash crop. The plant produces bolls which contain the cotton fiber. Although primarily white cotton also come in shades of brown, red, and green. In late September through October, cotton is harvested in Louisiana.



Plant: Soybean

Scientific Name: *Glycine max*

Location: Nearby Agricultural Fields

Soy could be found growing in Louisiana from May until October. Soy has many uses including tofu, plastics, clothing, and printer ink. In Louisiana, soybean is harvested in the month of October.





Cane River Creole NHP Plant Guide – Local Crops

Plant: Corn (maize)

Scientific Name: *Zea mays*

Location: Nearby Agricultural Fields

Corn is the main cash crop in the United States and a staple of the global food supply. Although this plant is native to the Americas it now is being grown on every continent except Antarctica. Corn is used in many products today including biofuel, biodegradable plastic, and glue. Corn is harvested in Louisiana during July and August.



Plant: Grain Sorghum (Milo)

Scientific Name: *Sorghum Bicolor*

Sorghum looks similar to corn but is shorter with a large seed head located at the top. The sorghum head contains anywhere from 10 to 1,250 seeds. Although worldwide it is used consumed by humans, in the United States it is mostly used as livestock feed. In Louisiana, milo is harvested in late August through early September.