

Frida Kahlo's Garden

Locations for Live Plant Installation, continued EXHIBITION LOCATION PLANT OPTIONS

Sunflower (cut or planted)

Girasol

Helianthus annuus

Dalia

Dahlia sp.

dahlia—*Dahlia pinnata* is the national flower of Mexico. Frida Kahlo grew them in her garden and frequently cut them to wear in her hair and display on her dining table.

kitchen garden—a small, utilitarian garden, usually in the yard or courtyard of a home, that consists mostly of vegetable, fruit, and herb plants used in food preparation. Before Kahlo and Rivera expanded the gardens at the Casa Azul, the green space was primarily a kitchen garden.

marigold—*Tagetes erecta*, a native flower of Mexico that is used prominently in Day of the Dead celebrations, because its colors (especially orange and yellow) and its fragrance are believed to help guide the spirits. Frida Kahlo grew them in her garden and frequently cut them to wear in her hair and display on her dining table.

In Mexico: Cempoalxochitl

Tagetes erecta

Agave

Maguey

Agave Americana

Yucca (spineless preferred)

Yucca

Yucca elephantipes

Bougainvillea

Bugambilia

Bougainvillea sp.

Calla lily

In Mexico: Alcatraz

Zantedeschia aethiopica

Philodendron

In Mexico: *Philodendron*

Philodendron bipinnatifidum

Amaranth (genus *Amaranthus*)—The seed from this flower that grew at Casa Azul was an important grain in ancient Mexican culture

bougainvillea (*Bougainvillea spectabilis*)—Frida often picked this flower from her garden to wear in her hair.

canna lily (genus *Canna*)—The large flowers on this plant from Frida's garden attract pollinators such as bees and hummingbirds. It has been associated with the Virgin Mary and is often a symbol of purity. Frida's husband, Diego Rivera, included this plant in several of his paintings.

Dahlia (genus *Dahlia*)—The national flower of Mexico; Frida grew dahlias, wore them in her hair, and painted them

elephant ears (genus *Xanthosoma*) Self-Portrait with Necklace of Thorns, 1940 (Poster 7) These large leaves behind Frida are thought to be from this tropical plant that grew at Casa Azul. Find photos of this plant and see if you can guess how it earned its common name

Fuchsia (genus *Fuchsia*)—A single bloom of this native Mexican flower, which is popular in hanging baskets today, is found in the self-portrait above (Poster 7). Can you find it? Kahlo very imaginatively painted it flying with the wings of a dragon fly

Geranium (genus *Pelargonium*)—One of the most popular garden plants today, geraniums grew at Casa Azul

Hyssop (genus *Agastache*)—Frida painted this native flower that butterflies love

Indigo (*Indigofera suffruticosa*)—the bright blue pigment on the Casa Azul garden walls comes from this plant in the pea family. Similar dyes were used to color ancient Mayan temples and ceremonial objects

Magnolia (*Magnolia pacifica*)—Kahlo painted this flower that the ancient Aztecs used as medicine and a flavoring for chocolate. A magnolia tree grows in the Casa Azul garden today

Marigold (genus *Tagetes*)—Orange or yellow marigolds, believed to help guide the spirits of the dead, are used to decorate graves in Mexico on Day of the Dead. In fact,

they are known as flores demuerto (flowers of the dead). In folklore, orange and yellow are the only colors that the dead can see

prickly pear cactus(*Opuntia ficus-indica*)*The Love Embrace of the Universe, the Earth(Mexico), Myself, Diego, and Señor Xolotl, 1949*(Poster 9)According to an ancient Aztec legend, the people were told to build Mexico City on the spot where they saw an eagle perched on this plant—a story conveyed in the imagery on Mexico’s flag. The red fruit of the prickly pear represented the bleeding hearts of human sacrifice in the ancient world; and in Kahlo’s paintings, the plant may represent her own wounded heart. Explore the meaning of this painting further on another card in this kit!

Rose (genus *Rosa*)—In the Casa Azul garden plan that Frida sketched in 1940, she marked the location other roses. Red roses are symbols of love, but other colors have different associated meanings.

Sunflower (genus *Helianthus*)—In some pre-Hispanic cultures, the sunflower was associated with the sun god. Not only do the blooms of this flower look like the sun, but they actually tilt to face the sun as it moves during the day! Because of this, they are also considered a symbol of a soul seeking God

yucca (genus *Yucca*)—Frida Kahlo grew this shrub with sword-like leaves and white, bell-shaped flowers in the garden at Casa Azul.

Zinnia (genus *Zinnia*)—In *Self-Portrait with Necklace of Torns*(Poster 7), one of these flowers is also depicted with the wings of a dragonfly!