



# FORT TICONDEROGA

National Historic Landmark

## Flower of the Week

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Common Name:	Goatsbeard
Botanical Name:	<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>
Family:	Rosaceae
Plant Type:	Herbaceous Perennial Flower
Season of Bloom:	Late spring to early summer

Goatsbeard is a dramatic native woodland plant that thrives in shaded and partly shaded locations in the garden. With ample moisture it can be planted in full sun. Its flower is similar in appearance to astilbe, though on a four to six foot plant that has the presence of a shrub. The compound foliage is bold and long-lasting. It is also known as bride's feathers.

This low maintenance perennial anchors the center of four beds in the King's Garden. The creamy plume-like flowers compliment the bearded irises and peonies blooming along with them, and brightens the shadiest corner of the garden. Marian Cruger Coffin's 1921 planting plan for the King's Garden lists *Spirea aruncus*, the former taxonomical name for goatsbeard. Though closely related to *Spirea*, it has since been given its own genus, *Aruncus*.

Goatsbeard develops a thick, deep root system which makes it difficult to transplant or divide. Its broad habit fills in large spaces over time. Use goatsbeard in naturalistic plantings near the woods or water, or in the perennial border. It is resistant to deer browse and smaller cultivars are available in the nursery trade.

