

The Heart in Nature

BY CHRIS FRANCIN
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Sometimes you look up at the sky and you see outlines in the clouds that look familiar. Maybe a dog shape catches your eye, a face in the clouds makes you laugh, or perhaps an almost perfect heart floating in the white fluffy clouds above grabs your attention. It is amazing how you can recognize the shape of a heart, especially found in nature, if you put your mind to it.

Just like concentrating on finding that perfect piece of sea glass or shark's tooth, that same kind of focus while outdoors, maybe taking a walk or visiting a park will bring forth a bounty of heart shapes to view, all found in nature!

Here is our collection of some of the most magnificent heart shapes that you can find and that we know Cupid would love to stumble across...



Flowers

These beautifully romantic pendant flowers are an example that nature truly has a heart. These perennial plants start to show their charm in early spring, giving your garden a spotlight of color and whimsical appeal.



Leaves

Delicately suspended from branches to boldly commanding attention on their own, we counted 25 varieties of heart-shaped leaves decorating our outdoor environment. It is a wonderful reminder from nature, signaling that love can be found almost anywhere; we just need to look for it!

Rocks & Stones

While taking a walk on the beach you might notice quite a few heart-shaped rocks. Compliments of Mother Nature, she tosses the rocks through wind and water, causing them to clink up against each other, resulting in smoothing out of their rough edges, creating beautiful heart-shaped rocks.





Shells

It's amazing how many shells you can find that are shaped like a heart. The best time to look for these treasures is in the early morning when the full moon is present, and the tides are at their lowest. While you enjoy your walk along the beach, you may discover shells that are naturally shaped like a heart and be surprised to discover those that have been hinged together by chance.

Sea Glass

These days, sea glass can certainly be manufactured and purchased, but genuine sea glass is found on the beach and originated from glass broken-off bottles, jars, and other glass items found near shipwrecks. The sea glass heart shape is created when one of the flat sides of the glass triangle becomes broken and it continues for years to be tumbled in the waves and sand, smoothing out its rough edges. Slowly its form starts to be molded into the shape of a heart. Finding a sea glass heart is rare, but if you are lucky enough to find one, you have found a treasure!



The Hoya Heart Plant

Each single leaf of this interesting plant is shaped like a heart. Commonly known as the Valentine or Sweetheart plant, it is a popular Valentine's gift to give to loved ones.

For more information about heart-shaped leaves, visit Horticulture Magazine's website at horticulture.co.uk/plants-with-heart-shaped-leaves to see a showcase of these amazing decorations of nature.

Sometime in February (or any month really), venture out to look for love...you might find it in unexpected places!



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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
FEBRUARY / MARCH						24 @TB
25 BOS 1:05	26 BAL 1:05	27 @PIT	28 @PHI	29 MIN* 1:05	1 BAL 1:05	2 @TOR
3 PHI 1:05	4 @MIN	5 DET 1:05	6	7 @BOS	8 PIT 1:05	9 BAL 1:05
10 @NYY	11 MIN 1:05	12 @PIT	13 @BAL	14 TB 1:05	15 @DET	16 PIT 6:05
17 BOS* 1:05	18 @TB	19	20 TOR 1:05	21 NYY 1:05	22 @MIN	23 TB 1:05
24 @BOS	25 MIN 1:05	26 @MIN				

* INDICATES SPLIT SQUAD.
DATES AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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