

For Immediate Release
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Cure Spring Fever at The New York Botanical Garden

Enjoy the ever-changing sights and scents of spring

Few places feature as many facets of nature's ever-changing seasonal displays as The New York Botanical Garden. Spring promises a rich, multi-sensory experience of floral delights, both outdoors and indoors, with exhibitions, programs, and events.

The outdoor attractions at the Botanical Garden are the perfect antidotes for spring fever, a grand pageant of spring's flowering sequence, in settings that range from the natural environment of the 50-acre Forest to the carefully designed gardens and landscapes brimming with plants from around the world. Guests can enjoy a rainbow of colors, from flowering cherry, magnolia, and crabapple trees to magnificent springtime favorites like daffodils, azaleas, tulips, and more.

Waves of flowers roll across the 250 acres of the Botanical Garden as spring unfolds. Visitors revel in spring's return as buds unfurl on the ancient trees of New York City's largest remaining native forest and spring rain swells the waterfall in the City's only fresh water river. Elsewhere, along the landscaped paths, under the specimen trees, and in the garden beds, sweeps of minor bulbs—chionodoxas, crocuses, scilla, and many more—break the drabness winter's memory with intense splashes of color. Witch-hazels and early flowering shrubs and trees add their own touches of unusual shapes, colors, and fragrances.

Flowering Trees Abound

As spring progresses, the Botanical Garden's superb collections of flowering trees and shrubs provide bolder strokes of color and more pronounced fragrances. Sixty flowering cherries—including wonderful specimens interplanted among the mature pines, firs, and spruces in the historic Arthur and Janet Ross Conifer Arboretum—are in peak flower during late April. The month of April brings to flower 25 varieties of Asian and American magnolias, leading into May when 90 different lilacs and 92 types of spectacular crabapples begin to flower. The azalea and rhododendron collections infuse vivid hues of many colors into seven acres of woodland. Larger spring bulbs add their own drama in ornate beds of formal tulips at the Seasonal Walk. The Botanical Garden has one of the largest collections of daffodils in the United States, with daffodils stretching across the Liasson Narcissus Collection, sweeping up Daffodil Hill, and bordering Daffodil Walk.

Gardens and Plants Collections

The Rock Garden displays thousands of colorful alpine plants, many grown from seeds from flowers of mountainous regions throughout the world, including specimens from each of the seven continents. A sparkling stream flows past primroses and woodland blossoms to a flower-rimmed pond.

Many of the individual gardens and plant collections, such as the Ladies' Border and the Jane Watson Irwin Perennial Garden, provide a showcase of unusual plants and how to use them in the garden. The newly renovated Home Gardening Center is a wonderful resource for visitors to see hot new plants and great old favorites, to learn time-saving techniques to make their home gardens more beautiful and more manageable, to gather ideas for creative design for gardens and landscapes, and to obtain solutions for common problems and answers to many gardening questions. Weekend demonstrations, tours, and presentations offer visitors the opportunity to tap into the knowledge of the Botanical Garden's experts. Elsewhere on the grounds, beds of peonies, both herbaceous and tree, and beds of irises contribute further vivid displays in May.

In the Ruth Rea Howell Family Garden, opening for the season the weekend of April 1, children help prepare the garden, planting flower and vegetable seeds, composting, and digging for worms in the fresh soil. In the Everett Children's Adventure Garden from April 4 through June 25, *Mud, Buds, and Butterflies* provides young visitors with the chance to explore nature and go on a spring scavenger hunt.

Late spring through the month of June is dominated by the exuberant flowering and distinctive fragrance of roses. The Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden, a dramatic design nestled in a verdant valley, provides gorgeous vistas and an encyclopedia of rose varieties, both heritage and modern.

A Complete Visitor Experience

While at The New York Botanical Garden, visitors will also want to explore the gateway to the Botanical Garden, the Leon Levy Visitor Center, and stroll through the Garden's conifer collections. The Visitor Center includes a cafe, an outdoor plaza, and Shop in the Garden with products for sale that reflect the collections of The New York Botanical Garden. The Shop will offer for sale specimens of many of the most compelling spring plants on view throughout the Botanical Garden.

To complement their outdoor excursions, visitors can also enjoy the exhibition *Spring Sensations: The Conservatory Flower Show* in the seasonal galleries of the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory from April 15 through June 4, 2006. In addition, guests can see *Dutch Watercolors: The Great Age of the Leiden Botanical Garden*, the spring exhibition in the William D. Rondina and Giovanni Foroni LoFaro Gallery of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library. Historic watercolors on loan from the National Herbarium of the Netherlands at Leiden, together with prints and rare books from the Mertz Library's collections will be on display, providing a context for understanding the historical significance of Leiden's Hortus Botanicus, one of the earliest European botanical gardens, established in 1590. The Library Building's Britton Science Rotunda and Gallery features *Plants and Fungi: Ten Current Research Stories*, an ongoing exhibition of research by Botanical Garden scientists in the field, laboratory, library, and herbarium, probing the mysteries of the evolution, ecological roles, and economic uses of plants. In the Arthur and Janet Ross Gallery, another ongoing exhibit, *The Luminous Lens of Mick Hales: Photographs of The New York Botanical Garden*, showcases 23 magnificent images that capture the seasonal beauty of the Garden, as seen through the keen eye of internationally renowned landscape photographer Mick Hales.

The New York Botanical Garden offers endless inspiration to soothe the soul of any spring visitor.

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For more information, visit www.nybg.org or call 718.817.8700.

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The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road in the Bronx. The Botanical Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays, from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. April through October, and 10 a.m.–5 p.m. November through March. The best way to enjoy the Botanical Garden is with the *Combination Ticket*, which includes admission to the grounds, the Conservatory, Rock Garden, Native Plant Garden, Everett Children's Adventure Garden, and Tram Tour, and costs for \$13 for adults; \$11 for students and seniors; \$5 for children 2–12. Grounds admission is free to everyone on Wednesdays all day and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information, visit www.nybg.org or call 718.817.8700.

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