

## **Enjoy the Return of Spring at The New York Botanical Garden**

### **Experience an Exciting Outdoor Season of Colors, Scents, and Events**

Witness the sights and scents of spring at The New York Botanical Garden. As the weather warms and nature awakens from its winter sleep, visitors to the Botanical Garden can partake in a rich, multi-sensory experience of floral delights, both outdoors and indoors, enjoying emerging flowers around the grounds as well as exhibitions, programs, and events. The gorgeous and serene Rock Garden is blossoming with the additional 20,000 minor bulbs planted last fall, and more than 500 new trees will be planted in the northern portion of the Garden's native Forest this April.

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 tract of native forest and spring rain swells the waterfall in the City's only freshwater 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 of 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.

### **Rock Garden Displays Early Spring Color**

Providing early spring color this year in the Rock Garden are the additional 20,000 minor bulbs planted last fall. Their diminutive size is perfectly suited to be tucked among the rocks and viewed up close along the garden's paths. The planting includes 2,000 *Eranthis* (the winter aconite), 7,000 *Scilla* (squill), 300 *Erythronium* (dog tooth violet), 1,100 *Chionodoxa* (glory of the snow), 600 *Muscari* (grape hyacinths), 1,400 dwarf Narcissus, 1,700 dwarf Iris and 1,650 little species tulips.

Many of the small minor bulbs are most effective planted in mass. Several masses of 1,000 bulbs were planted to carpet large areas with color in April before later flowering perennials emerge. The bulb plantings compliment the flowering ornamental woody plants – blue squill is planted beneath the buttery yellow flowers of *Corylopsis* (the winter hazel); various shades of blue and purple miniature iris will flower along with purples and pinks of dwarf rhododendrons.

The minor bulbs are followed by a beautiful progression of spring flowering perennial plants and flowering trees and shrubs. The Rock Garden's troughs were replanted this winter with early flowering alpine plants, dwarf conifers and dwarf flowering bulbs.

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

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## **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. 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 a variety of Asian and American magnolias, leading into May, when lilacs and 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.

## **500 Trees Planted at the Botanical Garden in April**

April is "MillionTreesNYC" Month, and The New York Botanical Garden is scheduled to plant a total of 500 trees on Saturday, April 12, (New York Cares "Hand on New York" Day) and on Arbor Day, Friday, April 25, 2008. The trees will be planted in the northern portion of the Botanical Garden's Forest, along both the Main Trail and the Oak Trail, as part of New York City's Parks & Recreation Department and the New York Restoration Project's plan to plant tens of thousands of trees citywide during the month of April. With volunteers from St. John's University, 250 trees are scheduled to be planted on April 12 at The New York Botanical Garden, and an additional 250 trees are scheduled to be planted on Arbor Day, April 25. These are in addition to the normally scheduled spring plantings at the Botanical Garden.

## **Gardens and Plant Collections**

Many of the individual gardens and plant collections, such as the Ladies' Border and the Jane Watson Irwin Perennial Garden, provide a showcase for unusual plants and how to use them in the garden. The Home Gardening Center is a wonderful resource for visitors to see hot new plants and great old favorites, learn time-saving techniques to make their home gardens more beautiful and more manageable, gather ideas for creative design for gardens and landscapes, and obtain solutions for common problems and answers to many gardening questions. Seasonal Walk features thousands of daffodils, violas, and tulips. 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, children help prepare the garden, planting flower and vegetable seeds, composting, and digging for worms in the fresh soil. The Everett Children's Adventure Garden 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.

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## Spring Offerings Indoors as Well

To complement their outdoor excursions this spring, visitors can also enjoy the new exhibition *Darwin's Garden: An Evolutionary Adventure* that explores the untold story of Charles Darwin's lifelong fascination and work with plants, including how flowers have evolved their extreme beauty and how plants are sensitive creatures responding to the least beam of sunlight and the pull of gravity. *Darwin's Garden* will include exhibitions of living plants and historical documents in three Botanical Garden venues: the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, LuEsther T. Mertz Library gallery, and Everett Children's Adventure Garden, plus an "evolutionary tour" of living plants demonstrating key points on the evolutionary tree of life. It will paint a portrait of Darwin as a naturalist and plantsman and show how Darwin's botanical experiments and discoveries helped shape his contributions to the understanding of life in general.

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. An exhibit of stunning images greets visitors in the Arthur and Janet Ross Gallery, *A Passionate Grower: Heirloom Melons and Squashes From the Gardens of Amy Goldman – An Exhibition of Photographs by Victor Schrager*.

### 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, featuring wonderful products for sale that reflect the specimens on display at the Garden. In addition, weekend demonstrations, tours, and presentations offer visitors the opportunity to tap into the knowledge of the Botanical Garden's experts.

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

For more information, visit [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org) or call 718.817.8700.

*Spring season sponsored by MetLife Foundation*

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The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad or subway. The Botanical Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays. The Garden is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The best way to enjoy the Garden is with the *All-Garden Pass*, which includes admission to the grounds as well as to seasonal gardens, exhibitions, and attractions such as the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children's Adventure Garden, Rock and Native Plant Gardens, and Tram Tour: \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and students with ID, \$7 for children ages 2–12, Members and children under 2 are free. (APRIL 8–24 ONLY: \$13 for adults, \$11 for seniors and students with ID, \$5 for children ages 2–12, Members and children under 2 are free.) A *Grounds-Only Pass* is available: \$6 for adults, \$5 for adult Bronx Residents; \$3 for seniors, \$2 for students with ID, \$1 for children ages 2–12, children under 2 are free. Grounds-only admission is free all day on Wednesdays and from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org)

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

**Media Contact:** Nick Leshi 718.817.8658/8616 or [nleshi@nybg.org](mailto:nleshi@nybg.org); **Images available**