

For Immediate Release
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The New York Botanical Garden Plans Special Weekend on Gardening in a Changing Climate

April 20 – 22, 2007

This spring, during a special three-day educational weekend, The New York Botanical Garden will launch a new series of symposia and public programs on gardening in today's changing climatic conditions. The weekend will begin on Friday, April 20 with *Gardening in a Changing Climate I*, a symposium for professional horticulturists featuring presentations by three renowned scientists. The symposium will be followed by public programs and home gardening demonstrations on Saturday, April 21, and Sunday, April 22, which is also Earth Day. All events will be held at the Botanical Garden.

Climate change is one of the gravest threats facing humankind and the environment and affects life on Earth in countless ways. Just as it threatens natural ecosystems from tropical forests to arctic tundra, the changing climate also affects farms, gardens, and other cherished cultural landscapes.

Symposium for horticulturists

Gardening in a Changing Climate I opens the weekend on Friday, April 20, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Arthur and Janet Ross Lecture Hall. Three distinguished speakers will share their research on the changing climate and its impact on plants and gardens. Todd A. Forrest, Vice President for Horticulture and Living Collections, who organized the symposium, will moderate the session, introduce the speakers, and briefly describe the importance of the subject to horticulturists.

Cameron P. Wake, Ph.D., Research Associate Professor, Climate Change Research Center, University of New Hampshire, will present an overview of climate change. Using numerous examples from around the world, Dr. Wake will present evidence of the changes that have already occurred, including a 4.4°F increase in average winter temperatures in the Northeast over the past 30 years, and implications of the changing global climate on the local environment.

David W. Wolfe, Ph.D., Professor of Plant Ecology, Department of Horticulture, Cornell University, will discuss climate change's impact on plants in the Northeast and the new risks and challenges that gardeners, farmers, and land managers face. The challenges include invasive insects and other pests, a reduction in biodiversity, and the replacement of some tree species with others. Risks to agriculture and to the rural economy—most notably in the fragile dairy industry—will also be discussed, as well as ways in which gardeners can help mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change.

Peter Del Tredici, Ph.D., Senior Research Scientist, Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, has had a great deal of experience growing diverse trees and shrubs at the Arnold

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Arboretum as well as in his own gardens. He will describe how the changing climate affects plants, especially woody plants, and outline strategies to keep gardens healthy in the face of climate change, from expanding the palette of plants used in gardens to devising new ways to fight pests such as the hemlock wooly adelgid.

The symposium will provide an exceptional opportunity for horticulturists and gardeners to hear the latest scientific evidence of climate change's impact on plants and gardens, as well as strategies for dealing with climate change in the garden. Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased through the Botanical Garden's Continuing Education Office. Visit the Web site at www.nybg.org/edu or call 718.817.8747.

A second symposium, *Gardening in a Changing Climate II*, is planned for Friday, September 14, 2007.

Weekend sessions for home gardeners

On Saturday and Sunday, April 21–22, a series of tours, talks, and demonstrations will inform home gardeners about techniques for creating healthy, resilient gardens that thrive in an uncertain climate while reducing the impact of gardening on the environment. On Saturday, Jack Algieri from the Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture will present the natural and ecological methods used at the center and there will be a screening of *An Inconvenient Truth*, the Academy Award-winning film inspired by Al Gore. On Sunday, professional arborist John Grant and the director of Starphire New Energy Technologies, Ron Kamen, will each give presentations.

On both days, docent-led tours of the Botanical Garden's 50-acre, old-growth forest will highlight the importance of trees and forests in the global carbon cycle. Tours of the Ladies' Border will introduce the expanded plant palette and experimental techniques of Botanical Garden horticulturists in the face of climate change. In the Home Gardening Center, hands-on demonstrations by Gardener for Public Programs Sonia Uyterhoeven will cover plant selection, soil healthcare, tree care, and other topics that will help gardeners prepare for the impact of climate change. Tours of the demonstration gardens in the Home Gardening Center will also provide tips for successful gardening in a changing climate.

Visitors will also have an opportunity to engage in an informal conversation over refreshments with a guest speaker and Garden horticulturists at a "Café Scientifique." Topics will include gardening in a changing climate and action items to help the environment.

Experimental "global warming" garden

The 250 acres of historic landscapes at The New York Botanical Garden and extensive curated living collections containing more than one million plants—representing all seven continents on Earth—make the Garden an especially rich resource for exploring the world of plants and their diverse ecosystems. The Botanical Garden's outdoor living collections also serve as indicators of the effect of the changing climate on local gardens. Of particular interest is the experimental Ladies' Border, a 260-foot-long and 30-foot-wide planting bed adjacent to the landmark Enid A. Haupt Conservatory. This historic border, a sheltered, warm spot with southeastern exposure, re-opened in 2002 in a daring redesign by Lynden B. Miller, the renowned public garden designer, and the Garden's horticultural staff. Featuring plants not typically found in the Garden's geographical zone, it allows the Garden to test the hardiness of plants and to expand the wide diversity of its plant collections. Lynden Miller says that it is intended "to stretch people's imaginations" about what they can grow in this region.

Todd Forrest refers to the Ladies' Border as a "global warming" garden. It tests conventional horticultural wisdom by observing which plants can be grown in this growing zone today and how different plants handle changing weather conditions. Since the redesign, plants in the Ladies' Border have endured

drought as well both severe and mild winters. The Border is a living, evolving experiment, with different plants tried out, successful ones transplanted into other gardens, and new plants brought in. Camellias, grape-hollies, crape myrtles, Japanese apricot, and even a Himalayan fan palm are among the unusual plants growing in the Ladies' Border.

The Botanical Garden is also testing the hardiness of conifers among its plantings in the Benenson Ornamental Conifers. Cultivars of the cedar of Lebanon and deodar cedar, considered marginally hardy in New York City, have thrived since the collection completed in 2004. Five weeping giant sequoias, also not considered hardy in New York, have survived for nearly five years.

Sponsored by JPMorgan Chase and House & Garden

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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 or subway. 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. PRICING: Adults \$13, Seniors/Students \$11, Children \$5. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit our Web site at 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.

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