

For Immediate Release  
October 19, 2004

**Conservatory Bursting with Exotics  
in Holiday Season *Glasshouse Winter Flowers* Exhibition  
November 19, 2004 through January 9, 2005**

Anthuriums and bromeliads transform the warm, moist Palm Gallery of the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory into a spectacle of exotic flowers. Colorful anthuriums in white, red, and pink contrast with the lush, rich green of soaring, broad-leaved palms to create a holiday sensation. Bromeliads, some of the world's most resilient and adaptable rain forest plants, show off their captivating flowers, thick leaves, and deep water-catching vases while anthuriums display their brilliantly colored flowering parts that have earned them the name flamingo flower.

The exhibition, which features more than 250 anthuriums and bromeliads, will include curator-led tours of the collections and advice from the Garden's experts on how to select and care for these intriguing plants. The Garden's Web site, [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org), includes a complete listing of horticultural events for the holidays.

**Anthuriums**

The name *Anthurium* means tail flower from the Greek *anthos*, or flower, and *oura*, or tail. Anthuriums, native to the wet forests of Central and South America, are members of the Aroid Family (Araceae). Aroids share a distinctive flowering structure found in familiar plants such as jack in the pulpit, calla lilies, and philodendrons. The "tail" is a long narrow structure that holds many tiny flowers. Surrounding the tail is a brightly colored leaflike structure that protects the flowers as they develop.

**Bromeliads**

The pineapple is the most familiar member of a large family of plants called *bromeliads*. All bromeliads are native to subtropical and tropical areas of the Americas. Most are *epiphytes*, meaning that they grow on other plants for support. Epiphytes absorb water and nutrients through their roots and leaves and produce their own food. In wet, tropical areas epiphytes of many kinds grow on trees, rocks, buildings, and even telephone lines. Most bromeliads produce dramatic and colorful flowering structures in which individual flowers emerge from inside colorful protective coverings called *bracts*.

One of the grandest bromeliads in nature, and in the Conservatory's permanent collection, is the giant *Vriesea imperialis*. Like all bromeliads, it has evolved to collect rain water and decaying plant material in storage tanks formed by the leaves. Then leaf cells absorb water and nutrients from the storage tank. *Vriesea imperialis*, on display in the Upland Rain Forest Galleries, with leaves more than 5 feet long and a flowering spike that can get up to 6 feet tall, grows on rocks at high elevations in the mountains of Brazil.

The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road in the Bronx. The Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday holidays. Winter Hours are from 10 a.m.–5 p.m., November through March. From December 19, 2003 through January 4, 2004, The Garden offers extended holiday hours: Daily, 10 a.m.–7 p.m. The Garden is closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. It will be open Christmas Eve, 10 a.m.–3 p.m., and New Year's Day, 10 a.m.–7 p.m. The best way to enjoy the Garden is with the Combination Ticket, which includes admission to the grounds, Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children's Adventure Garden, and Tram Tour, and costs \$13 for adults, \$11 for seniors and students, and \$5 for children 2-12 (free for children under 2). For more information, call (718) 817-8700 or visit our Web site at [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org).

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**Photos available.**