

For Immediate Release  
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## **Year-round Help for Home Gardeners Arrives**

### **Home Gardening Center Open at The New York Botanical Garden**

How does your garden grow? The answers can be found in the new **Home Gardening Center** at The New York Botanical Garden, which celebrated its grand opening September 30–October 2, 2005 with a wealth of demonstrations, tours, talks, Question & Answer sessions, and booksignings by nearly 20 expert gardeners, including Ralph Snodsmith, Roger Swain, Ashton Ritchie, and Jack Staub. A year-and-a-half in the making, this new space is a haven for gardeners at every level who seek answers to questions, ways to combat gardening challenges, and the latest in the home gardening world, from new plants to setting up compost systems.

According to Todd Forrest, the Botanical Garden's newly named Vice President for Horticulture and Living Collections, "Whenever I give talks on plants and gardening, regardless of the subject of the talk, I invariably get asked questions. How can I create a lovely, low-maintenance garden? What are the hottest annuals available? What plants won't deer eat?" Mr. Forrest continued, "It seems that gardeners all over can't get enough good, practical information to help make their gardens more beautiful. They also crave real, workable solutions to their gardening woes. That's why we are so proud the Home Gardening Center has been established here to come to their rescue."

#### **New Features Introduced**

Formerly a space where visitors could enjoy strolling among various themed gardens, the new Home Gardening Center is a beautiful, two-plus acre outdoor classroom replete with museum quality interpretive signage, helpful tip sheets, and weekly top quality garden teaching and demonstrations.

The Center was designed by gardeners for gardeners, and its plants and programs have been planned to teach enthusiasts how to cultivate the productive home gardens of their dreams with minimal worries. Plantings emphasize the latest introductions and reliable favorites, with particular emphasis placed on plants that are not negatively affected by insects and diseases, as well as plants that deer find unappetizing (a quandary growing ever more challenging among many homeowners and home gardeners in the nearby suburbs of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania).

#### **New Possibilities Unearthed**

The Home Gardening Center is: *the* place to see hot new plants and old favorites; where you want to be to learn time-saving techniques that will make your garden more manageable, as well as to pick up creative design ideas for gardens and landscapes; and *the* source for solutions to common and not-so-common gardening problems.

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Anchored by the new **Kenneth Roman Gazebo**, the Home Gardening Center is an array of gardens that reveal the latest ideas and trends. “I am what the Brits call a ‘keen’ gardener,” says New York Botanical Garden Vice Chairman Kenneth Roman. “I came to gardening late. I see home gardeners coming to this new setting for the two things they want most, inspiration and information. Since there are more ‘keen’ gardeners than great ones, I predict the new Home Gardening Center will be a great success.”

Gardener for Public Programs at the Botanical Garden, Sonia Uytterhoeven, conducts weekly talks and demonstrations in the Roman Gazebo, offering helpful tips and instructions on a wide range of issues from disappearing bulbs and spotty roses to vegetables that mysteriously get eaten. Sonia and occasional guest experts also teach topics as varied as how to create bird and butterfly gardens, cutting flowers for indoors, and getting gardens through winter. Many of the lessons are illustrated by the Home Gardening Center’s gardens and special areas, all designed at a scale appropriate for typical home gardens:

In the **Plant Trials Garden**, 16 beds planted with changing displays of annuals, bulbs, perennials, and shrubs provide ground for comparing the best and newest plants for our climate.

The **Grass and Bamboo Garden** surrounding the Kenneth Roman Gazebo features a multitude of grasses, sedges, and hardy bamboos, which are beautiful, yet highly resistant to deer.

Ostrich ferns, Japanese painted ferns, and other lush leafy fern species and cultivars are also resistant to deer and thrive in the shade of mature fir trees in the **Moss and Fern Garden**.

The **Rodney White Country Garden** is an inspiration for those who garden in the country or want to bring the country into their garden. A lichen-encrusted stone wall borders an informal, naturalistic planting of flowering trees and shrubs including redbud and Japanese-andromeda. Its meandering stream is framed by drifts of shade-loving plants such as ferns, hosta, and coral bells.

For those interested in a more formal approach, the **Mae L. Wien Cutting Garden** features a wrought iron arbor, which leads to brick paths that outline seasonally changing beds, brimming with tulips, dahlias, hydrangeas, stock, and countless other plants as beautiful in a vase as they are in the ground.

**Helen’s Garden of Fragrant Plants** is filled with a delectable palette of deliciously scented bulbs, perennials, annuals, and shrubs, from spicy spring-flowering viburnum, lilac, and peonies to heliotrope, lilies, and lavender in mid-summer to winter-flowering daphnes.

The **Louis Loeb Vegetable Garden** includes fruit trees that border plantings of culinary herbs and edible flowers, and raised beds of tasty tomatoes, leafy lettuces, and pungent peppers.

In the **Korean Chrysanthemum Garden**, a kaleidoscope of Korean mums, including dozens of colors and forms selected from the Botanical Garden’s collections, will inspire far greater use of this appealing and rugged perennial.

For gardeners who want the perfect lawn, but don’t want to spend countless hours on turf maintenance, the **Lawn Demonstration** provides a side-by-side comparison of the newest drought-tolerant and disease resistant grass seed mixes available to home gardeners.

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Of course, all gardens love compost, and the **Compost Demonstration** displays the materials and methods for recycling garden waste—everything from a homemade three-bin compost system to the newest single-bin systems available—to help gardeners create the perfect compost for their gardens.

### **A World of Resources at the Botanical Garden**

At all its many diverse venues across 250 acres, The New York Botanical Garden is a great source for home gardening inspiration, information, supplies, and instruction. Practical, informative demonstrations in the **Kenneth Roman Gazebo** allow you to take home what you've learned via handouts providing step-by-step instructions for gardening projects, plant selection and care, and various techniques.

After visiting the **Home Gardening Center** and discovering what you'd love to accomplish in your own back yard, **Shop in the Garden** should be your destination. It is the foremost one-stop shop for all your gardening needs. Recommended plants, top-drawer tools, an awesome array of gardening books, and so much more that is available in the Shop will spur along your enjoyment of plants and gardening.

The **Continuing Education** program offers numerous courses that help enrich the home gardening experience. Visit [www.nybg.org/edu/conted](http://www.nybg.org/edu/conted) for information.

Finally, if you're faced with a thorny issue, but can't get to the Botanical Garden, visit the **Home Gardening Center Online** at [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org) to ask the experts.

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*Generous support for the Home Gardening Center has been provided by Kenneth and Ellen Roman.*



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, 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 Garden is with the *Combination Ticket*, which includes grounds admission, the Conservatory, Rock Garden, Native Plant Garden, Tram Tour, and Everett Children's Adventure Garden, and costs for \$13 for adults; \$11 for students and seniors; \$5 for children 2–12. Grounds admission is free to everyone all day Wednesdays and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. To purchase tickets, order online at [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org) or call 800.965.4827. For more information, visit our Web site or call 718.817.8700.

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