

For Immediate Release
December 27, 2007

Learn All About Indoor Plants in a Special One-Day Botanical Garden Education Event

Register Now for “Houseplant Extravaganza,” Saturday, January 12, 2008

Learn how to care for your indoor plants or how to diversify your collection by attending “Houseplant Extravaganza.” This one-day program on Saturday, January 12, at The New York Botanical Garden features exciting classes on how to use exotic and unusual plants to add beauty to an interior landscape. Participants may select as many as three of the six two-hour sessions:

Beyond African Violets: Flowering Gesneriads for Your Home

10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Most people are familiar with the African violet, a favorite member of the Gesneriad family, which includes many plants that flower well indoors. This class will present *Gloxinia*, *Streptocarpus*, *Columnnea*, *Episcia*, and many other easily grown species and hybrids to consider.

Orchids at Home

10 a.m.–12 p.m.

If you’re tempted to try growing an orchid but afraid of failing, fear no more. Many lovely orchids adapt easily to growing conditions in the average home. Learn which species are recommended and the basics of watering, fertilization, and general care of these tropical beauties.

An Indoor Herb Garden

12:30–2:30 p.m.

Maybe you grew fabulous herbs on your windowsill all summer long and don’t want to give up their savory goodness just because it’s winter. Or maybe you don’t have an outdoor garden, but long to cook with fresh, homegrown herbs. Discover which traditional and exotic herbs adapt well to indoor culture and how to make the most of your indoor growing conditions.

Aristocratic Aroids: Fabulous Foliage for Your Home

12:30–2:30 p.m.

Fabulous foliage is the backbone of any garden, indoors or out. For exceptional indoor foliage, look to the Aroid family, which includes many plants that are easy to grow in the average home. Plant shapes, textures, and colors are infinitely variable and endlessly fascinating. Students explore their availability, ease of culture, and propagation techniques.

Flowering Houseplants

2:45–4:45 p.m.

Flowering indoor plants bring color, fragrance, and a touch of the exotic into your home. Learn which species do best indoors and how to care for them so that they continue to bloom month after month. Among the plants to be covered are many varieties of bromeliads, hoyas, wax begonias, jasmine, cape primrose, and orchids.

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Cacti and Succulents

2:45–4:45 p.m.

Many cacti and succulents make superb houseplants: They're low-maintenance and come in a wide range of colors and shapes, fabulous foliage, and surprising flowers. Learn how to propagate these plants, how to care for them indoors, and how to summer them outdoors. The class will offer growing tips and recommended species to give you a well-rounded introduction to the world of cacti and succulents.

“Houseplant Extravaganza” will take place in various classrooms in the Watson Building. The fee for each two-hour session is \$28 for Botanical Garden members and \$31 for non-members. Those who register for three sessions receive a 10 percent discount. For additional information, call 718.817.8747.

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To register for Continuing Education classes or for more information about Botanical Garden education programs, call 718.817.8747. Visit our Web site at www.nybg.org/edu to sign up for *Grapevine*, our free monthly newsletter that provides information on upcoming special programs and lectures, family fun and educational children's activities, gardening tips, exclusive Continuing Education discount offers, and more.

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. 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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