

For Immediate Release
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Rejuvenated Plantings and Cool Spring Promise A Spectacular Rose Month at the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden

June 4–26, 2005

Rose Month at The New York Botanical Garden promises to be especially lush and colorful this year. The weather has been cooperative, with a cold but not overly damaging winter, and an extended cool spring. The Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden's 2,700 rose plants in 83 beds and borders are growing vigorously and are heavily laden with buds. In June, visitors are invited to witness the breathtaking scene of old garden and shrub roses along the perimeter beds, including bourbon, damask, and gallica, centifolia, portland, rugosa, and hybrid musk roses, as well as the many specimens throughout the inner beds, like the grandifloras, floribundas, hybrid teas, climbing roses, and the latest All-America Rose Selections.

This year's rose display will also benefit from a concerted effort over the past two years to rejuvenate the mature plantings, particularly in pruning and reshaping the extensive collection of climbing and shrub roses. The climbers have been carefully trained to the fence and should put on a wonderful show for many years to come.

New roses have been also added to the collection this year, including the following cultivars:

Grace	Pink Parfait
Leander	Pinkie, Cl.
Leda	Polareis
Leverkusen	Ramblin' Red
Morning Jewel	Royal Pageant
Parkdirektor Riggers	Rugelda
Penny Lane	White Cap

Roses are famed for their fragrance as well as their classic beauty. Eric DePrano, the Curator of the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden and Rose Collections, advises, "If you want to experience the ultimate fragrance from roses, the best time to smell them is right before it rains, or in the early-to-mid morning, between ten and eleven o'clock, as the flower warms up and the oils in the rose begin evaporating."

Designed in 1915 by noted landscape designer Beatrix Jones Farrand—and the only surviving garden in New York City designed by her—the Rockefeller Rose Garden is a jewel of color, shape, and fragrance, a grand setting that draws rose lovers from around the world. Three main walks that traverse the unusual triangular garden, cradled in a verdant basin. Farrand built the design around the landscape. The Rockefeller Rose Garden is designed to have an upper level and a lower level, so that visitors first see the overall design of the garden from up above. People approach from above and see the entire garden laid out, and then descend into the rose garden for a more intimate stroll among the rose beds.

Visitors can view the geometry of the Rockefeller Rose Garden from the stone entry, past peony and lilac collections, and then walk down the stairways into the valley in which the rose garden is nestled, encircled by the trees and hills of the Botanical Garden. A seven-sided pergola rests in the center, surrounded by slim, arc-shaped beds.

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Rockefeller Rose Garden's New Surroundings

The entire southern quadrant of the Botanical Garden near the Rockefeller Rose Garden has been dramatically renovated since last year. Visitors to the Rose Garden will want to reserve a little time to explore the new landscapes, plantings, sculpture, and greenhouses nearby.

Just south of the Rockefeller Rose Garden are the brand new Nolen Greenhouses for Living Collections, the most sophisticated behind-the-scenes greenhouses at any botanical garden in the nation, and nearly an acre under glass. For the first time ever, visitors are able to enter one of the Botanical Garden's propagation greenhouses, the Bourke-Sullivan Display House, which is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. to give visitors a first-hand view of the plants and techniques of the Garden's expert horticulturists. At the entrance plaza to the Nolen Greenhouses, look for the new bronze sculpture by noted public sculptor Tom Otterness.

There's also an entirely new, pristine landscape to walk through. Adjacent to the Nolen Greenhouses, the Benenson Ornamental Conifers, which opened in October, 2004, offer new display beds of unusual ornamental cultivars as well as majestic mature specimens. Be certain to explore the new viewing platform in the southern loop of the collection, which opens up a wonderful panorama of conifers and other trees among rolling hills and rock outcroppings.

Rose Month Activities

The Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden will be at its spring peak during the month of June with myriad magnificent roses in flower. The New York Botanical Garden will celebrate Rose Month from June 4–26, 2005, with a number of activities, including classes, tours, demonstrations, and weekend prize drawings for roses.

Rose Month at the Shop in the Garden

Visitors can take home their own favorites from a selection of miniatures, hybrid teas, and floribunda roses from among the varieties that are growing in the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden. The 'Gertrude Jekyll' rose has performed very well at the Botanical Garden and is highly recommended. *Rose Companions*, a new book by rose expert Stephen Scanniello, identifies plants that make perfect partners for your roses, from bulbs to shrubs and vines. The Shop also carries rose gloves (\$10.00 for both men and women), rose food, and fine-quality pruners from the Swedish company Bahco that are designed specifically for rose care (\$38.00).

Questions & Answers Session with the Plant Information Experts – 1-4 p.m.

Saturday, June 4, and Sundays, June 12 and 19

Meet in the Shop at the Garden.

Continuing Education Classes

Pre-registration is required for all Continuing Education Classes; call 718.817.8747 or visit www.nybg.org.

The Rose Demystified

Saturday, June 11, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

An introductory course that teaches students to select and grow roses for their own gardens.

All About Roses

Saturday, June 25, 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

A special full day program of classes on six different rose-related topics: growing roses organically, roses made easy, rose gardening secrets, growing roses for fragrance, growing roses in containers, and how to use roses beyond the garden in cooking, crafts, and fragrance products.

The Rose

Mondays, June 20 and 27, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Two separate sessions of a flower arranging class, where students will work with all types of roses to create designs for glass containers, presentation bouquets, bridal bouquets, and mixed rose arrangements.

Expert talks, tours, tips and demonstrations

Celebrate thousands of roses in flower in the splendid Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden with floral festivities on weekends.

Drawings for Rose Plants – 2:15 p.m.

Saturdays, June 4, 11, 18, and 25

Be sure to enter your name in the drawing for a rose plant. Fill out a card at the information table in the Rose Garden for a chance to win. The winner must be present at the time of the drawing. Good luck!

Questions & Answers Session with the Experts – 1-4 p.m.

Saturdays and Sundays, June 4-5, 11-12, 18, and 25-26

Meet in the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden pergola.

Home Gardening Demonstrations

Meet at the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden information table.

The Basics of Rose Care – 1:30 p.m., Sunday, June 5

Pruning Basics – 1:30 p.m., Sunday, June 12

Companion Planting – 1:30 p.m., Sunday, June 19

The Basics of Rose Care – 1:30 p.m., Sunday, June 26

Expert and Curator-led Tours

Meet in the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden pergola.

Rose Varieties for your Garden – 2:30 p.m., Saturday, June 4

Grow Roses Organically – 2:30 p.m., Saturday, June 11

All-America Rose Selections Preview Tour – 2:30 p.m., Saturday, June 18

Fragrant Roses – 2:30 p.m., Saturday, June 25

Spring Season sponsored by MetLife Foundation.

Additional support provided by ConEdison.



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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 on 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 \$13 for adults, \$11 for students and seniors, \$5 for children 2–12. Grounds admission is free all day Wednesdays and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. For information call 718. 817. 8700 or visit our Web site at www.nybg.org.

Contact: George Shakespear or Maria Izquierdo 718.817.8616

Photos available