



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release
May 11, 2012

A Burst of Color Comes Early to the Award-Winning, Sustainable Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden

Mild Weather Prompts Roses to Bloom Earlier This Year

Peak Bloom Expected for Mother's Day Weekend



The New York Botanical Garden's acclaimed Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden is coming into flower about a month earlier than in previous years. A mild winter followed by a warmer than normal spring has encouraged many of the roses to blossom ahead of schedule. The first flowers of the year in the Rose Garden are a treat to visitors who have a unique opportunity to enjoy the kaleidoscope of colors and fragrances of roses several weeks sooner than usual. Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden Curator Peter Kukielski noted, "This year's season is gearing up to be the best year yet! The plants look happy and extremely healthy."

For home gardeners who may be concerned about roses blooming early, Kukielski offered some reassurance. "Be prepared for a late freeze, although at this point, it seems unlikely. Late cool temps may cause some blind shoots, but the plant will rebound with no problems when warmer patterns are in place."

Visitors are being encouraged to see the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden in May to gaze at the stunning Heritage roses, the once-flowering varieties that usually bloom early. The Rose Garden is planted with hundreds of repeat blooming varieties as well that will keep color in the garden until first frost—the longest blooming season of any perennial shrub.

The Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden Continues to Add New Varieties

This year's presentation will boast the largest number of roses ever planted in the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden since its opening in 1988. Just this spring, 807 new rose plants were planted. With the addition of 109 new varieties in the past year, the Rose Garden now boasts over 691 total varieties. The new varieties were chosen specifically for their hybridization toward disease resistance, long flowering, and sustainability.

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During the past four years, over 2,500 new roses have been added to the increasingly comprehensive collection. Kukielski's mission is to grow a diversity of varieties of roses from around the world that are not only stunningly beautiful, but disease resistant as well.

Now featuring more than 4,300 of America's national flower planted in its magnificently landscaped beds, the Rose Garden was designed in 1916 by celebrated landscape architect Beatrix Jones Farrand, whose full vision for the site was realized in 1988, thanks to the generosity of David Rockefeller in honor of his wife. The garden was meticulously renovated in 2007 and continues to charm and delight all who walk its paths.



Two years ago, 33 varieties were selected as additions to the Heritage Rose Border, making it one of the largest Heritage Rose Collections in the Northeast. Starting with species roses and ending with the first modern hybridized rose ('La France', 1867), this encyclopedic border allows visitors to stroll along and see the "evolution" of roses and learn how their flower form has developed over the past two centuries.

The entire Rockefeller Rose Garden is evaluated on a monthly basis using the Earth-Kind® Rose Trials system. This provides yearly quantitative results and provides a basis for rating varieties for disease resistance and fragrance, helping to transform the Rose Garden into one of the most sustainable public gardens in the world as well as one of the most beautiful rose gardens in America. The New York Botanical Garden is host to the Northeast version of the Earth-Kind® Rose Trials—now with satellite sites in Schenectady, N.Y.; Waterbury, Conn.; and Cornell Extension—Long Island, N.Y.

This year the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden has been nominated for the World Federation of Rose Societies "Award of Garden Excellence" to be determined and announced in October 2012. In 2010 the Rockefeller Rose Garden was presented the Rose Garden Hall of Fame Award by the Great Rosarians of the World™ and also was named the "Most Outstanding Public Rose Garden Display in America" by All-America Rose Selections.

A Full Complement of Rose-Themed Public Education Programs Offered

A special full-day lecture series, daily tours, Home Gardening Demonstrations, and Adult Education classes provide opportunities to appreciate and learn more about the iconic flower whose beauty continues to fascinate.

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- **Rose Garden Tours**
May 13 at 2:30 p.m., May 17 at 3 p.m., May 27 at 12:30 p.m., and June 1–30: Fridays at 1 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 12:30 p.m.
 Grow your knowledge of roses with this in-depth look at the collection in the Rose Garden. Discover the best blooms, the amazing varieties of color and fragrance, and the history of rose cultivation.
Meet at the entrance to the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden
- **The Great Rosarians of the World™ East Lecture Series**
Honoring Alain Meilland of France
June 2, 9:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
 The Great Rosarians of the World™ East Lecture Series addresses recent progress on the emerging world of no-spray, sustainable rose gardening. Learn about disease-resistant rose varieties now available as well as cutting-edge, environment-friendly techniques to grow great roses. This will be a full day of lectures and other programs about roses. Register online at <http://tinyurl.com/83zzv13>
- **Home Gardening Demonstrations**
Saturdays and Sundays in June at 2 p.m.
 Join a Garden horticulturist to learn how to create a beautiful rose garden of your own.

Life is Rosy
June 9 and 10 at 2 p.m.
 Join Gardener for Public Education Sonia Uyterhoeven as she takes you on a tour of the sumptuous, award-winning Rose Garden. She will cover standard rose care practice from fertilizing to pruning.

Stop and Smell the Roses
June 16 and 17 at 2 p.m.
 Join Gardener for Public Education Sonia Uyterhoeven for an exploration of the Rose Garden and a look at some of the highlights of the season.
- **Adult Education Classes**
The Rose De-Mystified
June 9, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
 Learn to select and grow roses for your own garden in this introductory course. Explore landscape use and care of different types—hybrid teas, shrub roses, and climbers. Learn techniques for pruning, pest and weed control, irrigation, and winter protection. Weather permitting, tour the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden. *Non-Member \$47; Member \$42*

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Going Green with Roses

June 16, 1–5 p.m.

You've succumbed to the charms of the rose and now want a few in your garden, but you want to succeed without the use of harsh chemicals and fertilizers. Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden Curator Peter Kukielski will teach management practices for the rose garden from a sustainable perspective, including disease and insect prevention and choosing the best varieties possible to achieve success at home. An overview of hybridization efforts currently going on around the world will be followed by a visit to the Rose Garden. *Non-Member \$96; Member \$86*

Register online for Adult Education classes at <http://www.nybg.org/adulted/> or call 800.322.NYBG (6924).

Shop in the Garden offers many rose-related items for sale, including rose plants, rose-inspired merchandise, books, and much more.

In addition to the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden, visitors can see roses in several other locations at The New York Botanical Garden. In the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, see roses as Claude Monet grew them in his garden in Giverny as part of the exhibition *Monet's Garden*, on view May 19–October 21, 2012, and also in the Jane Watson Irwin Perennial Garden and the Home Gardening Center.

For more information, go to www.nybg.org or call 718.817.8700.

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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 Railroad or subway. The Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The best way to enjoy the Garden is with the *All-Garden Pass*, which includes admission to the grounds as well as to seasonal gardens, exhibitions, and attractions such as the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children's Adventure Garden, and Tram Tour. For ticket pricing, please check our Web site. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit www.nybg.org

The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458

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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