

NYBG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 1, 2022

Living Edible Plant Displays at the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory Beckon Visitors to Explore the Diversity and Beauty of Plants Grown for Food Around the World During *Around the Table: Stories of the Foods We Love*

Dietary Staples from Tropical and Arid Regions of the World, a Field of Grain, Fruit Trees, and a Spirits Garden Among the Features

NYBG's Exhibition Celebrating Plants as Foundational to All Culinary Customs Runs June 4 through September 11, 2022



Edible plant displays in and around the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory (Photos by Ben Hider)

Bronx, NY—Showcasing hundreds of varieties of edible plants, including peppers, squash, cabbage, beans, grains, corn, banana, sugarcane, and breadfruit, installations of living edible plants in galleries, the Courtyards, and on the Lawn of the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory entice visitors to explore the diversity and beauty of food plants grown around the world. The plant displays are a major component of *Around the Table: Stories of the Foods We Love* at The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) this summer. Spanning the institution's 250-acre landscape, the multi-faceted exhibition explores the cultural, horticultural, environmental, and historical significance of what we eat, examines the art and science of foodways and food traditions—many dating back thousands of years—and celebrates plants as foundational to all culinary customs. *Around the Table* is on view from June 4 through September 11, 2022.

In the **Haupt Conservatory's Seasonal Exhibition Galleries**, a wide assortment of edible herbaceous plants and fruit-bearing trees flourishing in containers, entwined in overhead trellises, and reaching skyward from vertical planters ideal for compact urban spaces inspire appreciation of the plants that nourish us. Grapes, passiflora, and more grow along overhead arbors, while tropical and temperate plants, including palms, root vegetables, and herbaceous fruiting plants lushly adorn the two glasshouse galleries.

The Conservatory Courtyards offer an array of familiar and surprising edible plants from across the globe. The **Hardy Courtyard** features dietary staples of the world's tropical regions, including rice, taro, and banana; grapes, olives, and other Mediterranean region plants; and crops suited to arid climates such as figs, citrus, and pearl millet. In the **Tropical Courtyard**, peppers, tomatoes, and other nightshades; a gourd trellis; and a spirits garden showcasing plants used in the creation of beer, wine, and liquors round out this diverse display.

A portion of the Botanical Garden's **Conservatory Lawn** is transformed into an undulating field of dwarf sorghum and barley, traditional grains well-suited to NYBG's climate, allowing observation of the sowing, nurturing, harvesting, and replanting processes of these foundational food plants over the course of the exhibition.

In addition to the Conservatory's expansive edible plant displays, *Around the Table* offers an African American Garden curated by Dr. Jessica B. Harris, the leading scholar of foods of the African Diaspora; the work of contemporary artist Lina Puerta; displays highlighting the art and science of edible plants and plant-based cookbooks; and 30 tables designed by Bronx-based artists. Programming for all ages includes "Around the Kids' Table" in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden, Wellness Wednesdays with the NYBG Farmers Market, weekend celebrations, and more. The exhibition provides opportunities to discover the diversity and beauty of plants that are grown for cuisine around the world, to uncover the botanical origins of the foods people think they know, and to cultivate deeper understanding of the environmental and social impacts of food choices.

For more information or to purchase tickets for *Around the Table: Stories of the Foods We Love*, please visit <https://www.nybg.org/event/around-the-table-stories-of-the-foods-we-love/>.

Around the Table: Stories of the Foods We Love is presented by:

Major Support: Cornell Douglas Foundation

Additional Support:

Mellon Foundation

EHA Foundation

The Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation

Digital experience provided by: Bloomberg Philanthropies

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Providing leadership support for year-round programming at NYBG

Exhibitions in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory are made possible by the Estate of Enid A. Haupt.

Exhibitions in the Arthur and Janet Ross Gallery are made possible by the Arthur and Janet Ross Fund.

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The New York Botanical Garden is located at 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458. For more information, visit 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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