

## Corpse flower to bloom at United States Botanic Garden

**UPDATE JULY 26 - Updated peak bloom estimate: July 30 - August 2.**

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Contact: Devin Dotson, U.S. Botanic Garden - [ddotson@aac.gov](mailto:ddotson@aac.gov), (202) 306-6743

### Corpse flower to bloom at United States Botanic Garden

**Washington, DC** - The corpse flower (*Amorphophallus titanum*), also called "the stinky plant," is about to bloom at the United States Botanic Garden (USBG). The plant went on display Friday, July 22. The Garden currently estimates peak bloom might happen between July 30 - August 2. Once fully open, it usually lasts for 48 hours and then quickly collapses. You can track the bloom's progress via live video at <http://www.USBG.gov/CorpseFlower>.

The plant is famous for its large size, pungent odor, and unpredictable bloom schedule. The bloom is the largest unbranched inflorescence in the world - in the wild. An inflorescence is a cluster of multiple flowers that in the case of *Amorphophallus* species looks like a single flower. The corpse flower has flowers at the base of the spadix (the large vertical center) inside the famous purple-maroon spathe (the part that looks similar to "petals").

The corpse flower gets its name from the putrid scent it emits while in bloom to attract pollinators such as carrion beetles and flies. Some describe the scent as garlic, fish, diapers, and rotting meat.

The plant, first known to science in 1878, is native to tropical rainforests of Indonesia. Since such a large bloom requires lots of energy, it can take several years to store enough energy to bloom. Public displays of this unique plant have occurred a limited number of times in the United States. The U.S. Botanic Garden last displayed a blooming corpse flower in 2013.

The U.S. Botanic Garden is open to the public, free of charge, every day of the year from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Starting this weekend, the Conservatory will have the corpse flower on display, and will stay open until 11 p.m. during peak bloom. The Conservatory is located at 100 Maryland Ave. SW, on the south side of the National Mall. Visitors are encouraged to use Metrobus and Metrorail. Visit <http://www.USBG.gov/CorpseFlower> for updates on peak bloom timing and extended hours of the plant, and to see a live video stream.

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- **Media photo folder** (photos of current bloom and previous peak bloom)
- Available for interview: USBG Executive Director, Curator, and botanists

#### About the U.S. Botanic Garden

The United States Botanic Garden (USBG) is one of the oldest botanic gardens in North America. The Garden informs visitors about the importance and diversity of plants, as well as their aesthetic, cultural, economic, therapeutic and ecological significance. With over a million visitors annually, the USBG seeks to promote sustainable practices. The U.S. Botanic Garden is a living plant museum accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. [www.USBG.gov](http://www.USBG.gov)

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**Source URL:** <https://www.usbg.gov/corpse-flower-2016>