Exhibits

The U.S. Botanic Garden is committed to creating and offering extraordinary exhibits that delight, educate and inspire the public to become more active stewards of the plants that support life on earth.

CURRENT EXHIBITS

It's Hip to Be Square: The Mint Family
January 31 - December 1, 2019

Did you know that coleus, sage, and rosemary are all in the mint family (Lamiaceae)? This plant family contains many culinary herbs. Mint family members have square stems, and opposite leaves. Most people know about Mentha (peppermint and spearmint) and Salvia (sage) species, but there are over 230 genera and more than 7,000 species in the mint family. Come explore this beautiful exhibit to learn about the interesting plants in this unique family.

Find this exhibit in the Conservatory's South Lobby »
Patrick Dougherty Stickwork Sculpture Installation

October 7, 2019 - open ended

In celebration of the U.S. Botanic Garden's 200th anniversary in 2020, the Garden is collaborating with renown stickwork artist Patrick Dougherty to create a custom sculptural installation onsite. Dougherty's installations are woven from plant materials, and for this creation, the plants used include willow and invasive plants removed from two sites in the area -- U.S. National Arboretum and American Horticultural Society River Farm. The invasive plants harvested to be used include Norway maple, Siberian elm, and hybrids of non-native cherry. Volunteers and employees will work with Dougherty and his team over three weeks to create the unique installation. Once complete, visitors will be able to touch and explore this nature-inspired plant artwork on the Lawn immediately west of the Conservatory. [Photo at left shows a recent Dougherty creation.]

More information »

UPCOMING EXHIBITS
Season's Greenings: America's Gardens
Join us to explore botanic gardens from Hawaii to Maine in this year's Season's Greenings holiday show! Plant based recreations of conservatories, fountains, and sculptures will fill the model train room. These will include iconic gardens scenes like Brooklyn Botanic Garden's vibrant red Japanese torii gate, Franklin Park Conservatory Gardens' flamingo topiaries, Missouri Botanical Garden's famous Climatron conservatory, and Huntsville Botanical Garden's Rocket Garden featuring NASA space nodes and rockets! The Conservatory will be filled with thousands of flowers, including a showcase of heirloom and newly developed poinsettia varieties. Our collection of D.C. landmarks made from plant materials will return to fill the Garden Court, and the West Gallery will feature a decorated tree with its own model train. Join us as we celebrate America's beautiful and diverse public gardens.

More information, including tips for planning your visit »

RECENTLY ENDED EXHIBITS

Celebrating New American Gardens
January 31 - October 15, 2019

Public gardens across America are engaging, inviting, and dynamic. Gardens are living creations, as they display seasonal changes along with a constant ebb and flow. This exhibit celebrates American gardens created or renovated within the last five years. These gardens showcase new plant collections, create spaces for people to connect with nature, and foster sustainability. Come explore what's new in public gardens!

More information »
Plant Collections
Exhibit Archive
Gardens Across America
Orchids: Amazing Adaptions [at Kogod Courtyard]
Botanical Art Worldwide: America's Flora
Season's Greenings: All Aboard!
Season's Greenings: Roadside Attractions
Orchid Spectrum

May 24 - October 1, 2019
Amorphophallus titanum
National Garden has something for you!

February 16 - April 28, 2019
The permanent exhibits in our Conservatory will take you around the world all year long. It houses collections of endangered and Jurassic plants. From late May to mid-October, the Conservatory Terrace features thematic exhibitions.

Bartholdi Park, a favorite ?secret? garden of Washingtonians, is across Independence Avenue from the Conservatory. Here you can enjoy the Victorian Fountain. The gardens suggest interesting plants and innovative designs at a scale suitable for the home landscape.

January 31 - October 15, 2018
November 22, 2018 - January 1, 2019
Our newest outdoor garden, the National Garden features the Regional Garden of Mid-Atlantic native plants, the Rose Garden ? all grown organically ? devoted to the U.S. national flower, the Butterfly Garden and the First Ladies Water Garden.

This year, take a trip across America as our annual holiday show Season's Greenings showcases Roadside Attractions! In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, this art exhibit showcases some of the plant species and communities found throughout the more than 400 national park sites.

The advent of book publishing ushered in an exuberant age of plant exploration and discovery. The world of horticulture is for everyone -- those with green thumbs and those green with envy. Growing and caring for plants is rewarding and relaxing. Whether you?re a first time gardener or an experienced gardener, you can find useful information here.

Stop and take a look at the murals covering our city walls and you?ll notice plants are often featured. Plants in murals are a fun and creative way to bring the outdoors inside. This exhibition will feature 40 murals from around the city to celebrate the role plants play in our lives.

Learn more about our mission, our exhibits, and find a location near you!