



PRESS RELEASE
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THE NATIONAL GARDEN AT THE U.S. BOTANIC GARDEN OUTDOOR GARDEN CELEBRATES ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

August 28, 2007 - Washington, DC -- The U.S. Botanic Garden is busily preparing for a special birthday: the National Garden turns one year old on September 29! To kick off the celebration, a **Family Day in the National Garden** will be held on **Saturday, September 8**, 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Festive events for young and old will include children's activities; cooking and Ikebana demonstrations; tours; and a container gardening demonstration.

Authorized by Congress, the National Garden is a public-private venture that was built with funds raised by private citizens, corporations, and garden clubs from across the nation. It features an eclectic collection of plants native to the Piedmont and Coastal Plain regions of the Mid-Atlantic, including many cultivars of native species that have been selected for their superior qualities. Adjacent to the Regional Garden, the Rose Garden, First Ladies Water Garden, and Butterfly Garden feature a diversity of texture, color, and design, insuring that the National Garden offers something for every garden enthusiast. Although most gardens typically mature over a decade, the National Garden is hitting its stride, already showing signs of its future, full-grown glory.

Right now is the perfect time to visit, while the **National Garden is open every day until 7:00 p.m.** (through September 30) -- and it may well be your last chance to see our spectacular summer exhibit, ***Celebrating America's Public Gardens*** (through October 8). In the National Garden, ***Green Today, Growing Tomorrows*** focuses on the work of public gardens across America and why they are so important. "Vignettes" throughout the National Garden -- including a magnificent mural of handmade tiles from the UC Davis Arboretum and a boat sculpture by famed glass artist Dale Chihuly -- tell fascinating stories of the local, regional, and national impact of public gardens and their diversity. Then stroll into ***A Sense of Place*** on the adjacent Conservatory Terrace where you can relax in the displays constructed by twelve other public gardens, including a bog garden of carnivorous plants, an urban townhouse garden, and a serene Japanese garden. Even if you already visited these display gardens earlier in the season, they are well worth a return trip, for they continue to grow and flourish, delight our visitors in their lushness and diversity, and consistently spark ideas for home gardens.

The U.S. Botanic Garden Conservatory is open to the public, free of charge, every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Conservatory is located at 100 Maryland Avenue SW, on the west side of the U.S. Capitol. Our **National Garden's summer hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day.** Visitors are welcome in Bartholdi Park from dawn to dusk. Visitors are encouraged to take Metrobus and Metrorail. Further information is available by calling 202-225-8333 or visiting www.usbg.gov.

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