

# The National Garden

**A** MUCH-ANTICIPATED addition to the U.S. Botanic Garden, the National Garden opened to the public in October 2006. As part of the first public-private partnership project for the Architect of the Capitol, this garden was solely funded by private donations contributed to The National Fund for the U.S. Botanic Garden. More than 235,000 individuals from nearly every state raised money through garden club sales of flowers and other fundraisers.

Situated on the west side of the Conservatory, on one of the last vacant spaces on the National Mall, the three-acre garden showcases the natural beauty of North American flora. An abundantly landscaped path meanders through six distinct features. The Lawn Terrace, a formal space that connects the Conservatory to the new outdoor garden, is adjacent to a Butterfly Garden, filled with nectar plants to lure butterflies and other pollinators. The First Ladies Water Garden, an elegant pool and fountain constructed in five shades of bluestone and granite, was inspired by a Colonial-era quilt pattern named for Martha Washington. The Rose Garden celebrates the national flower with more than 100 roses selected from the eight classes grown today. The Regional Garden, featuring native perennials, shrubs, and trees from the Mid-Atlantic region, flanks a naturalistic stream. An amphitheater, sunk into the west end of the garden, provides a gathering place for educational programs.

A natural complement to the Botanic Garden, the National Garden is an outdoor classroom highlighting the great diversity of American plants. From this urban oasis, visitors are able to experience the beauty and power of nature, while enjoying the inspiring vistas of Capitol Hill and the Mall.



(ABOVE)  
NATIONAL GARDEN DEDICATION,  
SEPTEMBER 29, 2006.

First Lady Laura Bush speaks at the opening of the National Garden.

(OPPOSITE)  
NATIONAL GARDEN PLAN.

ASSOCIATE ARCHITECTS FOR  
THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL







## Appendix A

### How to Read a Plant Label

THROUGHOUT the Conservatory, plants are labeled to help visitors recognize and remember them. Most plants have at least one common name, given in English, but their botanical names are usually in Latin. Labels are designed so that the essential information about a plant is presented consistently.

- The first line is usually the common name.
- The second line is the botanical name, which is always italicized:
  - first word indicates the genus (the subdivision of a plant family that may have many species);
  - second word is the species;
  - if there is a third word this is usually a subspecies or variety;
  - a word preceded by an x or enclosed in quotation marks indicates a cultivated variety.
- The third line indicates the plant family.
- The fourth line is its place of origin.
- Cultivated varieties do not show a place of origin because they do not appear in the wild.



(ABOVE)

A TYPICAL LABEL IN THE BOTANIC GARDEN CONSERVATORY.

(OPPOSITE)

BAT PLANT  
(*Tacca integrifolia*).