

The U.S. National Arboretum is a U.S. Department of Agriculture research and education facility and a living museum. It is dedicated to serving the public and improving our environment by developing and promoting improved floral and landscape plants and new technologies through scientific research, educational programs, display gardens, and germplasm conservation. It is a national center for public education that welcomes visitors in a stimulating and aesthetically pleasing environment.

Established in 1927, the arboretum is part of the Agricultural Research Service, the principal in-house research arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. ARS conducts research to develop and transfer solutions to agricultural problems of high national priority and provides information access and dissemination to ensure high-quality, safe food and other agricultural products, assess the nutritional needs of Americans, sustain a competitive agricultural economy, enhance the natural resource base and the environment, and provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole. For more information about ARS, visit its website at [www.ars.usda.gov](http://www.ars.usda.gov).

## GETTING TO THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM

The National Arboretum is located in northeast Washington, D.C., off New York Avenue (Route 50) and Bladensburg Road. Gates are located on the New York Avenue service road and on R Street, off Bladensburg Road. Admission and parking are free.

The nearest Metrorail stop is Stadium Armory on the orange and blue lines. Transfer to Metrobus line B2 and get off at R Street. Walk 2 blocks down R Street to the entrance gate.



U. S. NATIONAL  
ARBORETUM

3501 New York Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
Phone: (202) 245-2726  
Fax: (202) 245-4575  
[www.usna.usda.gov](http://www.usna.usda.gov)

U.S. NATIONAL  
ARBORETUM  
VISITOR GUIDE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

PROGRAM AID NO. 309

SLIGHTLY REVISED OCTOBER 2006







#### ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AND VISITOR SERVICES

Landscape plantings highlight the very best of the National Arboretum plant introductions, while an array of aquatic plants and exotic koi fish flourish in a pool surrounding the building.

Court of Honor • Aquatic Plants • Lobby Exhibits • Auditorium • Information



#### ASIAN COLLECTIONS

This dramatic landscape overlooking the Anacostia River features plants collected from the rich floras of temperate Asia, with an emphasis on plants from China, Korea, and Japan.

Japanese Woodland • Asian Valley • China Valley • Korean Hillside • Camellia Collection



#### AZALEA COLLECTIONS

Late April ushers in the most colorful display of azaleas in Washington. Enjoy the landscaped trails that climb to the top of Mount Hamilton and its view of the U.S. Capitol.

Glenn Dale Azalea Hillside • Mitchell Walk • Morrison Garden • Lee Garden



#### DOGWOOD COLLECTION

Many exceptional varieties and species of dogwoods are found in this tranquil setting with lovely vistas of the Anacostia River.

Anacostia River Overlook



#### FERN VALLEY

Native ferns, wildflowers, shrubs, and trees are planted in natural settings representing various habitats of the eastern United States.



#### FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

An innovative landscape of perennials abounds with year-round beauty, from the earliest spring bulbs to winter's elegant ornamental grasses.

Arbor House • Gift Shop • Friends of the National Arboretum Office • National Bonsai Foundation Office



#### GOTELLI DWARF AND SLOW-GROWING CONIFER COLLECTION

This outstanding collection occupies a 5-acre landscaped hillside. Groups of spruces, firs, and dwarf pines grow nearby. The collection also features the arboretum's crapemyrtle introductions.

Watnong Collection of Dwarf Pines • Spruces • Firs



#### HOLLY AND MAGNOLIA COLLECTIONS

Spring brings clouds of magnolia blossoms to this 10-acre planting. Winter is brilliant with the showy berries and glossy green leaves of holly. Scattered throughout are many of the arboretum's magnolia and holly introductions.



#### NATIONAL BONSAI & PENJING MUSEUM

Inspired by the design traditions of Japan, China, and North America, this superb collection of artistically trained trees and related artifacts is presented in four distinct pavilions, each complemented by its own meditative garden.

Japanese, Chinese, North American, and International Pavilions • Tropical Conservatory



#### NATIONAL BOXWOOD COLLECTION

The most complete living collection of boxwood in the world covers 5 acres and contains over 100 *Buxus* species and varieties.



#### NATIONAL CAPITOL COLUMNS

Twenty-two sandstone Corinthian columns that once stood at the east portico of the U.S. Capitol now create a picturesque landmark in the heart of the arboretum.

Flowering Tree Walk • Capitol Columns Overlook



#### NATIONAL GROVE OF STATE TREES

Trees representing every state and the District of Columbia are planted in this 30-acre living monument to America's forest resources.

Picnic Area



#### NATIONAL HERB GARDEN

This 2 1/2-acre jewel includes 800 kinds of herbs from around the world growing in 10 theme gardens and a cottage-style garden filled with 11 different categories of historic and species roses and their companion plants.

Historic Roses • Knot Garden • Theme Gardens



#### PERENNIAL COLLECTIONS

Formal beds of daffodils, peonies, and award-winning day-lilies bloom exuberantly from late February through July.

Daffodils • Peonies • Day-lilies



#### YOUTH GARDEN

This 1-acre organic hands-on garden springs alive in May as area youth and their families learn to plant and tend vegetables and herbs and to use their harvest to prepare healthy, tasty dishes.

Butterfly Garden • Heirloom Vegetables • Herb Garden • Edible and Ornamental Border



Over 15,000 vividly colored Glenn Dale azaleas grow on Mount Hamilton among native trees like the flowering dogwood.

Arboretum crapemyrtle introductions such as this one, 'Tuskegee', provide colorful accents in the Gotelli Dwarf and Slow-Growing Conifer Collection.

The Entrance Garden of the National Herb Garden, the largest designed herb garden in the Nation, features seasonally changing planting beds.

A Chinese-style pagoda provides a panoramic view of the Asian Collections and the Anacostia River.

## SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

**SPRING** arrives with the appearance of woodland wildflowers. Magnolias cloak themselves in fragrant blossoms before their leaves appear. Scilla and miniature daffodils spread a lavish carpet in the Court of Honor, and cherry blossoms open as temperatures warm. Mount Hamilton's slopes are covered with thousands of azaleas as spring reaches its height. Dogwoods, crabapples, peonies, and roses complete spring's exuberant display.

**SUMMER** brings day-lilies and crapemyrtles, welcoming the heat of summer with showy, resilient blooms. Herbs grow in harmony with myriad colors, textures, and scents. Water-lily flowers glisten like gems on the Administration Building pool. The prairie blooms in a rich tapestry of color. Meadows undulate in the summer wind.

**AUTUMN** leaves begin revealing their colors in late October. The palette ranges from the rich yellows of tulip poplar and hickory to the bright red of black gum and the purplish red of sweet gum and dogwood. Spider-lilies and native witch-hazels flower as days grow cooler.

**WINTER** brings calm and quiet. Snow and ice transform the gardens into a jeweled landscape. Hollies sparkle with brilliant red berries. Dwarf conifers, boxwood, and Southern magnolias greet the crisp cold with bright green leaves. Winter winds whisper through the leaves and seedheads of ornamental grasses. In February and early March, camellias, Japanese apricots, witch-hazel, winter jasmine, and sweet-box bloom defiantly as the days grow warmer.

At any time of year, you'll want to linger in the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum and survey a priceless collection of miniature trees. Throughout all seasons, dramatic vistas await you. Make it a point to see the arboretum's meadows and forests, as well as the historic Capitol Columns.

**January-February-early March**  
Witch-hazels, hollies, dwarf conifers

**Late March-early April**  
Magnolias, spring bulbs

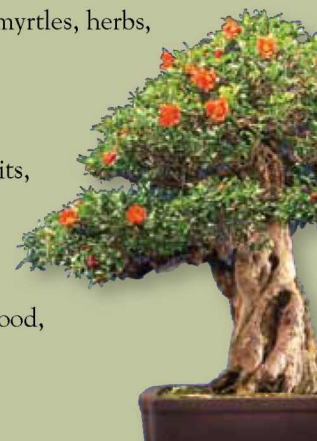
**Mid-April**  
Woodland wildflowers, flowering cherries

**Late April-May**  
Crabapples, dogwoods, azaleas, peonies, roses

**June-July-August**  
Day-lilies, water-lilies, crapemyrtles, herbs, meadow wildflowers

**September-October**  
Crabapple and viburnum fruits, herbs, meadow wildflowers

**November-December**  
Holly berries, conifers, boxwood, camellias



◀ The National Capitol Columns were carved from Virginia sandstone in the 1820s and removed from their original home, the U.S. Capitol, in 1958 during an expansion project.

# IT'S YOUR NATIONAL ARBORETUM

- **The Grounds** are open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except December 25.
- **The National Bonsai & Penjing Museum** is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., except December 25.
- Information and educational displays are located in the **Administration Building**, which is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and until 5:00 p.m. on weekends, March through October.
- **The Arbor House Gift Shop** is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., from March 1 through mid-December, and until 5:00 p.m. on weekends, April through September.
- For information on guided tours, classes, events, and volunteer opportunities, contact **Education and Visitor Services** at (202) 245-4523 or visit [www.usna.usda.gov](http://www.usna.usda.gov).
- The arboretum may be reserved for **private or corporate events**. For information about specific locations, fees, and other details, please call (202) 245-4565 or visit [www.usna.usda.gov](http://www.usna.usda.gov).

The **Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA)** supports research and educational projects at the arboretum. For more information, call (202) 544-8733 or visit <http://www.fona.org>.

The **National Bonsai Foundation (NBF)** supports the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum at the arboretum. For more information, call (202) 396-3510 or visit <http://www.bonsai-nbf.org>.

## GROUND RULES

We invite you to discover, enjoy, and learn about the amazing variety of plants. We ask your help in protecting and preserving this national living treasure.

Visitors are expected to abide by the rules posted at the information kiosks and in the Administration Building lobby.

- All plants, fish, and wildlife are protected. Do not collect plants or plant parts, including flowers, leaves, and seeds.
- Picnic only in the National Grove of State Trees picnic area. Barbecues, fires, and alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Playing radios and portable music players without headphones is prohibited on the arboretum grounds.



*The design of the 1960s Administration Building echoes the upright and branching structure of trees.*

**In case of emergency, contact Security at (202) 245-4572.**

- Pets must be leashed at all times and must be controlled so they do not enter garden beds or urinate or defecate in them. Owners must clean up after their pets. Pets are not allowed in the Administration Building or in the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum.
- Playing ball, flying kites, swimming, wading, fishing, skating, skiing, sledding, rollerblading, riding scooters, and other sports activities are prohibited. Please bicycle on roadways only.
- Children under the age of 16 must be supervised by an accompanying adult for the entire visit. Commercial and wedding photography require a permit and may require a fee. Climbing trees is prohibited.
- Obey the 20-mph speed limit. Park in designated areas or on the pavement.
- In garden areas, stay on designated paths.



*The arboretum's Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit introduced 'First Lady', a dark pink flowering cherry, in 2003.*