

U.S. National Arboretum



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The U.S. National Arboretum is a Department of Agriculture research facility and living museum. It is dedicated to serving the public and improving our environment by developing and promoting improved landscape plants and new technologies through scientific research, educational programs, and display gardens.

The National Arboretum is a unique Federal institution linked by partnerships to many governmental agencies, the scientific community, other arboreta and botanical gardens, and private-sector groups. As a national center for public education, the Arboretum welcomes visitors to a stimulating and aesthetically pleasing environment.

Fast Facts

Establishment

Established in 1927 by an Act of Congress. Administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service.

Mission

To serve the public need for scientific research, education, and gardens that conserve and showcase plants to enhance the environment.

Location

Northeast Washington, DC, with entrances on New York Avenue and R Street. There are research locations in Washington, DC; Beltsville, Maryland; and McMinnville, Tennessee.

Size

446 acres with 9.5 miles of winding roadways.

Annual Visitation

475,000 to 525,000

Budget

Federal Appropriation FY 09: \$13,830,000

Support Organizations

American Nursery and Landscape Association, Friends of the National Arboretum, Garden Club of America, Herb Society of America, National Bonsai Foundation, National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc., National Capital Orchid Society, National Garden Clubs, Inc., Society of American Florists, and Woman's National Farm & Garden Association.

Staff

72

Volunteers

Over 75, working in all areas of the Arboretum.

Interns

Internship positions are in horticulture, research, education, facilities management, and public garden administration and are supported by non-profit organizations, and privately donated funds.

Research

Wide-ranging basic and developmental research on trees, shrubs, turf, and floral plants. Development of new technologies for the floral and nursery industries. Development of plants with superior characteristics through a program of testing and genetic improvement. Development of new methods of pest and disease detection and control. Taxonomy and nomenclature of ornamental plants and their wild relatives. Collection and preservation of plant germplasm with ornamental potential.

Programs

Gardens	Single-genus groupings include: azalea, boxwood, daffodil, daylily, dogwood, holly, magnolia, maple, and peony. Major garden features include: aquatic plants, the Asian Collections, the Fern Valley Native Plant Collections, the Flowering Tree Collection, the Flowering Tree Walk, the Friendship Garden, the Gotelli Dwarf and Slow-Growing Conifer Collection, the Introduction Garden, the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, the National Capitol Columns, the National Grove of State Trees, and the National Herb Garden.
Education	Public education programs, including symposia, lectures, workshops, and demonstrations; plant, flower, and art exhibitions; interpretive brochures and signs; group tours; public relations.
Publications	Over 130 scientific articles in professional and trade journals in the last 3 years. Various program aids for visitors. Eight publications in the National Arboretum Contribution series.
Plant Introductions	678 official plant releases. Eight patents and two EPA biopesticide registrations.
Cooperative Programs	Agdia, Inc., Iowa State University, Michigan State University, North Carolina State University, Oregon State University, Tennessee State University, University of California, University of Connecticut, University of Florida, University of Maryland, University of Missouri, University of Tennessee, University of Wisconsin, and Holden Arboretum, Kirtland, Ohio.
International Cooperative Programs	Austria, Israel, Japan, People's Republic of China, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, and Ukraine.
Herbarium	Permanent reference collection of over 650,000 specimens of dried pressed plants for scientific studies in agriculture, horticulture, botany, medicine, and other related fields. Contains plants from around the world, with a special emphasis on cultivated plants. Especially well represented groups include azaleas (<i>Rhododendron</i>), cherries (<i>Prunus</i>), daffodils (<i>Narcissus</i>), daylilies (<i>Hemerocallis</i>), hollies (<i>Ilex</i>), oaks (<i>Quercus</i>), viburnums (<i>Viburnum</i>), and willows (<i>Salix</i>).
Library	Over 11,000 books and 100 journals specializing in botany, horticulture, and natural history, with a special collection on bonsai, penjing, viewing stones, and related arts. Affiliated with the National Agricultural Library.

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