A GREEN OASIS awaits you in nearly every population center in this country. These oases of green, of beauty and of plant learning are our botanical gardens and arboretums. They may be a big help to you in solving your gardening problems.

The botanic gardens and arboretums should not be confused with parks for pleasure or active recreation. They are educational and research institutions concerned with accumulating and disseminating knowledge about plants.

The botanic garden evolved from the medicinal gardens of Europe into scientific and educational institutions concerned primarily with botany. Gradually they have expanded their concern to include the practical application of botanical principles to horticulture, gardening and ecology.

By definition, the botanic garden grows all kinds of plants and the arboretum only woody plants. However, the distinction between the two is often blurred and some of our better known gardens such as Longwood Gardens do not include botanic garden or arboretum in their name.

The important distinction that should be made is whether the plant collections and programs of a park or garden meet the minimum qualifications to be designated as a botanic garden or arboretum. The bona fide botanic garden or arboretum should as a minimum contain authenticated and labeled plant collections and conduct educational programs with plants. Research is highly desirable but not necessary.

Many parks and gardens cannot qualify as botanic gardens or arboretums under this definition but are important horticulturally because they contain outstanding and historically important plants.

The changing image of botanic gardens and arboretums has made them more appealing as places to visit because many of their plantings and programs are designed to help homeowners with their gardening problems.

In demonstration gardens designed for spaces that approximate the areas available to the average homeowner, the visitors can learn the names of plants that are adapted to his region, how they can be arranged in various styles of gardening, and how such construction materials as rocks, fencing, railroad ties, etc. can be used effectively in landscaping. Most gardens now display turf plots, and trial gardens of annuals and perennials.

Workshop and lecture programs are regularly scheduled for children and adults in a wide range of gardening subjects, such as propagating plants, care of the lawn, pruning, fertilizing, and caring for house plants. Painting and photographic displays featuring plants are often on exhibit.

Annual flower shows of plant societies and special meetings of ecology and conservation groups are frequently scheduled at botanic gardens and arboretums. Libraries of these institutions are a rich resource for information on plants and are being used by the general public, educational and research institutions, and industry.

In the hope that you will find time to visit your local garden or a garden in another area of the country, a partial list of botanic gardens and arboretums is published with this chapter. The exclusion of gardens from the list does not imply they are not worth visiting.

The location of small and specialized gardens can be determined by visiting or writing to the major gardens within a state or geographical area. Take advantage of most gardens’ willingness to respond to requests for an informational leaflet on their own garden, and suggestions on other horticultural points of interest in their area.
The simple act of writing ahead for information and planning your visit can save you the frustration of having passed an interesting place along the road, having gotten lost and arriving after the gates are closed, or having missed a special flower show or exhibit by a day.

If you have a choice, plan your visit for a weekday. Weekends are usually crowded and only a skeleton staff is available to answer questions. On hot days plan your visit for the morning tours after the dew is off the grass and before the temperature reaches the 90's. For your own sake, as well as that of the staff at the garden you are visiting, don't show up 15 minutes before closing time.

The special features and plant collections listed for each garden represent a small part of what there is to see. For additional information write to the garden that you plan to visit, or purchase a copy of the Directory of American Horticulture from the American Horticulture Society, Mount Vernon, Va. 22121, or The Arboretums and Botanical Gardens of North America published by the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, Jamaica Plain, Mass. 02130, or American Gardens—A Traveler's Guide, $1.50, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11225.

BOTANICAL GARDENS, ARBORETUMS, AND PLACES OF HORTICULTURAL INTEREST

Northeast

Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain, Mass. 02130

This outstanding institution is over 100 years old and contains many outstanding specimens of trees and shrubs. Collections of special interest are the forsythias, cherries, magnolias, crabapples, azaleas, rhododendrons and lilacs. A special hedge collection and a collection of Bonsai (dwarf potted trees) are open to the public. The arboretum testing ground known as the Case Estates in Weston, Mass., is also open to the public.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden
1000 Washington Avenue,
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11225

Besides its contribution to scientific botany, Brooklyn has provided outstanding educational programs for children and adults in all facets of botany, horticulture and gardening. Plantings of special interest are the Japanese gardens, Royanji Stone Garden, fragrance garden for the blind, waterlilies, and tropical plants in the conservatories.

Highland and Durand-Eastman Park Arboretum
375 Westfall Road,
Rochester, N.Y. 14620

Highland Park is noted for its outstanding collection of approximately 500 varieties of lilacs. There are also noteworthy collections of peonies, azaleas, crabapples, rhododendrons and roses. The conservatory at Highland Park has seasonal shows at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.

Longwood Gardens
Kennett Square, Pa. 19348

Longwood Gardens was developed by the late Pierre Samuel DuPont and is considered by many to be this country's finest display garden. The extensive conservatories contain thousands of tropical species from throughout the world. The extensive and highly maintained grounds have such outstanding features as an Italian Water Garden, rock garden, display of waterlilies and many outstanding specimens of trees and shrubs. The system of electric fountains is among the most intricate and beautiful to be found anywhere in the world.

New York Botanical Garden
Bronx Park,
New York City, N.Y. 10458

The most complete botanical garden in this country. Most aspects of botany and horticulture are included in the extensive scientific and applied pro-
grams. The conservatories house a wide variety of tropical plants. Other outstanding features are the rock garden, naturalistic plantings, the conifer collection and the museum exhibits.

National Arboretum
Washington, D. C. 20002

The National Arboretum is best known to the public for its extensive collection of azaleas. The mass planting of 70,000 azaleas is usually at its peak of bloom during the last week of April. The arboretum's dwarf conifer collection is the best in the country. The collections of holly, magnolia, firethorn, viburnum, crepe myrtles, and camellias are outstanding.


Southeast

Callaway Gardens
Pine Mountain, Ga. 31822

Callaway Gardens is a remarkable exception to the idea that serious horticulture and recreation can not be combined in one institution. In this oasis of beauty, swimming, boating, fishing and golfing are carried out in a setting of natural beauty and colorful horticultural plantings of azaleas, hollies, magnolias, camellias, rhododendrons and seasonal plantings of bulbs and annuals. A wide range of tropical plants are on display in the greenhouses.

Fairchild Tropical Garden
10901 Old Cutler Road
Miami, Fla. 33156

This beautifully designed garden represents one of the best examples of how the talents of a landscape architect can provide the botanist and horticulturist with an outstanding setting in which to display plants for educational and research purposes. The palm collection is among the finest in the world. There are also outstanding collections of vines, orchids, and bromeliads.

Norfolk Botanical Garden
Airport Road
Norfolk, Va. 23518

Locally the Norfolk Botanical Garden is referred to as the "Gardens-by-the-Sea." The garden has outstanding collections of camellias, azaleas, and other broadleaved evergreens in a setting of loblolly pines and quiet lakes. The demonstration gardens illustrate different styles of landscaping, planting combinations, and solutions to special landscaping problems.

Nashville; Sarah P. Duke Memorial Gardens, Duke University, Durham, N. C.

Midwest

Alfred L. Boerner Botanical Garden
5879 S. 92nd Street
Hales Corner, Wis. 53130

Horticultural excellence characterizes Boerner Botanical Garden. This compact garden is in Whitnall Park located on the outskirts of Milwaukee. Outstanding among its diversified plantings are the perennial border, peony collection, rose garden, herb garden, rock garden and the field trials of annuals.

Botanic Garden of the Chicago Horticultural Society
Box 90, Glencoe, Ill. 60022

This major botanic garden is still under development but open to the public. The 300-acre site is composed of 240 acres of rolling land and 60 acres of water with nine islands. Major features for the public at this time are the Home Landscape Center with its demonstration gardens planted with the best trees and shrubs for the Chicago area and highlighted with spring bulbs and annuals, and a nature trail with Braille labels.

Holden Arboretum
Sperry Road
Mentor, Ohio 44060

This slowly evolving arboretum is located on over 2,000 acres of rolling land east of Cleveland. Some of its outstanding features are Stebbin Gulch, a gorge which reveals the geologic past of the area and provides a site for subarctic plant life left by the retreating glaciers, and ever increasing plant collections of lilacs; ornamental fruit trees, conifers, nut trees, rhododendrons and azaleas.

Kingswood Center
Box 1186, Mansfield, Ohio 44903

Kingswood is a cultural and garden center that excels in horticulture. The specimen trees and shrubs form a background for superb plantings of spring bulbs, wildflowers, irises, peonies, summer annuals, daylilies, gladiolus, dahlias and chrysanthemums.

Morton Arboretum
Lisle, Ill. 60532

The Morton Arboretum was established by Joy Morton, whose father—J. Sterling Morton—founded Arbor Day. This extensive arboretum of over 1,200 acres contains outstanding collections of a wide variety of trees and shrubs that have been arranged for maximum landscape effect. The arboretum has a number of fine nature trails and an excellent hedge collection.

Missouri Botanical Garden
2315 Tower Grove Road,
St. Louis, Mo. 63110

Founded in 1859, this is the oldest botanical garden in existence in this country. The garden is well known to the scientific community throughout the world and to local citizens. It gained national prominence with the building of the Climatron, a geodesic dome made of aluminum and plexiglass, for the display of tropical plants. The garden has excellent collections of orchids and waterlilies, and wide selections of trees and shrubs.

Also, Beal-Garfield Botanic Garden, Michigan State University, East Lansing; Dawes Arboretum, Newark, Ohio; Garfield and Lincoln Park Conservatories, Chicago; Mt. Airy Arboretum and Stanley M. Rowe Arboretum, Cincinnati, Ohio; University of Michigan Arboretum, Ann Arbor; University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, St. Paul; University of Wisconsin Arboretum, Madison.
Rocky Mountains, Southwest and West Coast

Denver Botanical Garden
909 York Street,
Denver, Colo. 80206

This relatively new garden is rapidly developing into a major botanic garden. The huge conservatory houses a wide variety of tropical plants. Outdoor plantings contain a wide variety of perennials and there is an extensive collection of iris.

Desert Botanical Garden of Arizona
Tempe, Ariz. 85281

Chief function of this botanical garden is to grow, display and study desert plants from all the world's deserts. The garden has a display greenhouse and good collections of agave, cactus and yuccas.

Huntington Botanical Gardens
San Marino, Cal. 91108

The botanic garden provides a setting for the Huntington Library and for the Art Gallery that houses Gainsborough's famous "Blue Boy." The planting of cacti and succulents is especially outstanding. There is also a Shakespeare Garden, a Japanese Garden, and an extensive collection of camellias.

Los Angeles State and County Arboretum
301 North Baldwin Avenue,
Arcadia, Cal. 91006

Since its beginning in 1948, this arboretum has distinguished itself in developing plantings and programs to relate botany and horticulture to the people of this large metropolitan area. It is rich in plants native to the Mediterranean region and Australia. The demonstration gardens show how plants, landscape construction materials, and outdoor furniture can be combined in practical and pleasing combinations.

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
1212 Mission Canyon Road,
Santa Barbara, Cal. 93105

This is an excellent place to see native California plants. These plants are grown in landscape settings for display and for experimentation to determine their adaptation to ornamental use.

Strybing Arboretum and Botanic Garden
Golden Gate State Park,
San Francisco, Cal. 94118

Plants from all over the world are grouped according to the region of origin. Other plantings include demonstration gardens, a garden of fragrance, rhododendron test area, a rock garden featuring dwarf conifers, and a five-acre area devoted to 300 species of native California plants.

University of Washington Arboretum
Seattle, Wash. 98105

The favorable climate of this area makes it possible to grow a very wide range of plants. The arboretum plantings are especially rich in broadleaved evergreens, and particularly rhododendrons, camellias and hollies. Other well represented plant groups are the maples and pines. The excellent Japanese garden is very rich in plant species.

Also, Boyce Thompson Southwest Arboretum, Superior, Ariz.; Fort Worth Botanic Garden, Fort Worth, Tex.; Descanso Gardens, La Canada, Calif.; Hoyt Arboretum, Portland, Ore.; Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Claremont, Calif.; University of California Botanical Garden, Berkeley.