

## The Pleasures Of Public Gardens

(NAPSA)—“You can learn a lot of things from the flowers,” as Lewis Carroll’s “Alice in Wonderland” remarked. Here’s a look at a few of the things you can discover among the flowers in America’s beautiful, bountiful public gardens.

### Water Conservation

Public gardens use efficient watering practices and have industry insight on responsible irrigation systems. Homeowners can learn how to irrigate their own gardens by exploring and consulting with a public garden.

### Native and Adapted Plants

Choosing native plants or plants that have adapted to the local environment can ensure that a garden will be healthy and require less water. Public gardens tend to have huge collections of native and adaptable plants that homeowners can be assured will work in their own gardens.

### Landscape Design

Homeowners can find inspiration in the design of gardens and the way gardens are displayed, coordinated and arranged. Landscaping at public gardens can demonstrate which plants bloom at similar times, which arrangements look well together, and how gardens can be beautifully displayed.

### Seasonal Considerations

Public gardens have a selection of plants that are right for a variety of seasons. Blooms can happen year-round if the appropriate types of plants or trees are selected. Keeping your garden beautiful can be easier once you see how public gardens arrange their collection.

### Gardening Methods

Public gardens often have staff dedicated to botany and are home to specialists who understand the geographical region very well. You can access these industry experts at the public garden and get



Photo courtesy of Missouri Botanical Gardens

### A beautiful place to grow your knowledge is in a public garden.

advice on gardening techniques for your own plants.

### Publications

Public gardens usually have publications available to visitors and members that provide resources on gardening and botany. You may find a wealth of knowledge in member publications. Often, there are libraries and bookstores within the public gardens as well.

### Plants and Supplies

Public gardens will often sell plants, flowers and trees to garden members, perhaps during annual festivals, providing top-quality additions to your garden. The sale may come with professional experience and advice of the sort that cannot be found elsewhere.

### Learn More

The nonprofit American Public Gardens Association has partnered with Rain Bird, a leading manufacturer and provider of irrigation products, to promote gardens through National Public Gardens Day. Many of the nation’s public gardens will mark the day with special events and activities for schools, families and thousands of visitors. For more information, you can visit [www.NationalPublicGardensDay.org](http://www.NationalPublicGardensDay.org).



*Note to Editors: May 11, 2012 is the fourth annual National Public Gardens Day.*