




Master Gardener Update

March 2021

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Websites

For Rock County

MGV info:

rock.extension.wisc.edu/
upcoming-events-and-
volunteer-opportunities/
OR

fyi.extension.wisc.edu/
mgvrockco/

MGV Hours Reporting:

wimastergardener.org/
report-your-hours/

RPMGA Blog:

rpmga.blogspot.com

RPMGA on Facebook:

Hit control/click on this
link:

[RPMGA on Facebook](#)

Rotary Gardens:

rotarybotanicalgardens.
org

**Wisconsin Master
Gardener Program:**

wimastergardener.org

**Wisconsin Master
Gardener Association
(WIMGA):** wimga.org

city in Lisle in 1922. In 1925, Morton set aside a one-acre parcel within the Arboretum as a family burial plot. This small cemetery now serves as the final resting place for himself and members of his family.

Set on the site of the former Morton family mansion, the Thornhill Education Center provides space for classes, programs, and events. The original Morton family library remains a part of the historic structure, which contains a unique bay of stained glass windows dedicated to trees through history.

The Administration and Research Center has evolved to serve the changing needs of Arboretum staff and visitors over several decades. Today’s staff includes 190 full-time, 135 part-time, and 120 seasonal employees who work in areas such as plant collections and grounds, tree research, education, visitor services, and administration. Employees come from diverse backgrounds but have in common a commitment to the mission of the Arboretum: to plant and protect trees for a green, healthier, more beautiful world.



The logo of The Morton Arboretum is symbolic and has meaningful ties to the Morton family emblem.

The mission of The Morton Arboretum is to collect and study trees, shrubs, and other plants from around the world, to display them across naturally beautiful landscapes for people to study and enjoy, and to learn how to grow them in ways that enhance our environment. Our goal is to encourage the planting and conservation of trees and other plants for a greener, healthier, and more beautiful world.



Gerard T. Donnelly, Ph.D.,
President and CEO of
Morton Arboretum.

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RPMGA - Next MGV Virtual Coffee/Tea Chat

Join your fellow Rock and Walworth County Master Gardener Volunteers on Tuesday, March 9 at 9 a.m. for a social visit and to catch up on the latest MGV news. Our Horticulture Outreach Specialist, Julie Hill, will send out the Zoom link shortly.

Watch Your Inbox for a List of Covid-Approved Volunteer Locations

Outdoor garden volunteer season is almost upon us. And although no volunteer hours are REQUIRED to recertify as an MGV for 2022, we volunteer because we like to. Julie Hill has promised to send out a list of locations in Rock and Walworth Counties that have been reviewed and meet the Covid safety standards set by the UW. Places you can volunteer if you feel comfortable doing so in person. If you would like to get MGV volunteer hours at a location not on her list, contact Julie for help to see if it can get approved.

State Program Office Notes

March 31 Deadline for Annual Enrollment Process

If you haven't already logged into the Online Reporting System to complete the Annual Enrollment Process, you have until the end of March to do so. You have to complete the enrollment forms before you're officially certified as an MGV for 2021. Remember, volunteer hours are optional again in 2021, but 10 hours of Continuing Education will be required.



Onboarding Lite Begins in April

After the March 31st enrollment deadline, you will automatically be enrolled in the **Master Gardener Onboarding "Lite"** program. Onboarding is a NEW online course created to provide incoming volunteers all they need to know about becoming a representative of the UW-Extension through the Master Gardener Program. Current MGVs will have access to the "Lite" version of the course since you already have gone through background checks, etc. Onboarding Lite will count for 10 hours of CE. You're strongly encouraged to complete the course, and it's always good to keep up with how new MGV training is being provided. More info to come in April.



SPRING SYMPOSIUM

VIRTUAL EVENT

Saturday, March 6, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Garden Renovation: Transform Your Yard into the Garden of Your Dreams
 Bobbie Schwartz
 Bobbie's Green Thumb

Saturday, March 13, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Spring Flowering Bulbs
 Lisa Roper
 Gravel and Ruin Garden horticulturist at Chanticleer

Saturday, March 20, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Sensational Spring Plants
 Michael Jesiolowski
 Director of Horticulture at Rotary Botanical Gardens

Registration is required to attend this virtual event.
 \$15 per session or \$36 for all 3 for RBG Members
 \$18 per session or \$45 for all 3 for Non-Members

The registration deadline is March 1. No refunds after March 1, 2021.

Questions? Call 608.314.8415
 or email delaney.sherwood@rotarygardens.org

Registration Deadline extended!

March 6: Garden Renovation

Homeowners often want to make changes to their landscape but are unsure where to start, what questions to ask, and don't know how much they don't know that they need to know. They also need to set goals and priorities and evaluate their existing landscape before making changes. An extensive discussion of soil, light, and moisture as well as marrying the house and the landscape should lead to a better understanding of the convergence of aesthetics and ecology. Register by 4 p.m. March 3 for this session or all three.

March 13: Spring Flowering Bulbs

There is such a wealth of choices when browsing through bulb catalogues that it can be overwhelming. This talk will focus mostly on Spring blooming bulbs, including many unusual ones. Lisa will discuss the different cultural requirements for bulbs to thrive and how to combine bulbs with perennials, annuals, grasses and other bulbs for optimal effect. She will also cover planting techniques, perennializing bulbs, and how to try and ward off critters. Register by 4 p.m. March 10.

March 20: Sensational Spring Plants

The wait is over, Spring is here! Come celebrate by learning about the very best trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals that provide their primary season of interest in Spring. A light will be shined on some "under the radar" plants as well as tried and true performers. Register by 4 p.m. March 17.

To register, go to rotarybotanicalgardens.org/education/symposia/ and scroll to the bottom of the page.

More Online Training Coming Up in March and Beyond

To save space, we're not including many of the programs you can find on the wimastergardener.org website and at hort.extension.wisc.edu. But 'tis the season of spring seminars and they're almost all online this year. Many of the talks are free or really inexpensive. Please check out both of these sites! Another place to check for garden-related talks: badgertalks.wisc.edu/events/

Summer Blooming Bulbs, Melinda Myers, Wednesday, March 3, 6:30-7:30 p.m., online

Grow cannas, gladiolas, dahlias and other summer-blooming bulbs for added color, form and beauty in your garden. These summer bloomers attract pollinators and provide lots of flowers for your garden bouquets. Plant them in existing flowerbeds, mixed borders and cutting gardens. Or dedicate a row or bed in the vegetable garden for these flowers. Melinda Myers started out as an Extension educator in southeast Wisconsin, and has gone on to become an author and media expert on gardening. There's no charge for the session, but registration is required. Some additional webinars are available on demand. For details or to register for the Summer Bulbs class, go to www.melindamyers.com/about-melinda/upcoming-appearances The on-demand webinars are listed at the end.



Take Action to Keep Our Lakes Healthy, Thursday, March 4, 6-7:00 p.m., online

Our lakes are vital to where we live, work and play. But they need our help! Lesser celandine, Phragmites, and knotweed are three invasive plants in southern Wisconsin that grow in wet areas, such as shorelines, and have significant impacts on our lakes. Learn how to identify them, their effects, and how you can take action by looking for and reporting infestations via email or with the Great Lakes Early Detection Network app. This is a free event, but registration is required. Please use the following link to register: <https://go.wisc.edu/ixpf32> Once registered, a connection link to the webinar will be sent the *day before the event*.

Organic Apple Tree Workshop, Saturday, March 6, 9:00 a.m. to noon, online

This online workshop is put on by the Michael Fields Agricultural Institute in East Troy. It will focus on organic apple tree management in the Upper Midwest. The talk will mostly be geared towards backyard growers, but will also touch on a few commercial management considerations. Topics will include tree planting and spacing, fertilizing, pest and disease management, pruning, and grafting. The instructor is Deirdre Birmingham of The Cider Farm near Mineral Point, WI. Dierdre helped establish the Upper Midwest Organic Fruit Growing Network while starting a tree nursery, preparing her orchard site and learning all she could about apple growing. The \$30 fee includes rootstock and scion wood, plus other needed materials, which will be sent via mail prior to the event. (Please sign up as early as you can so you can receive the materials before the program.) To register: <http://bit.ly/3sTR3ev>



Adaptive Gardening, Tuesday, March 9, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Via Zoom. The therapeutic benefits of gardening have been documented since ancient times but there has been a recent upswing in the interest for therapeutic gardening and horticulture. But how can people of different abilities adapt their garden space to suit their needs? Join University of Illinois Extension Horticulture Educator, Chris Enroth, as he discusses best practices for adapting your garden to accommodate age, mobility, or other means. Chris will also share how you can be successful in helping yourself, as well as others to enjoy the art of gardening at home or in institutions like schools, assisted living facilities, and others. The presentation is free but registration is required. Sign up at <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=22927>

The Wild Ones: Meet the Native Garden Designers, Tuesday, March 9, 5-6:00 p.m.,

Wild Ones recently introduced seven ecoregion-specific native garden designs (including one for Milwaukee) that are available for free on a special website. Each plan features a variety of native species and was created with the premise that using native plants in landscaping can be beautiful and achievable for gardeners of all skillsets. The designs allow gardeners to take an incremental approach in developing their plan, adding new areas and native species as time and funds permit. Now Wild Ones wants to give you insight into how the plans were developed. The designers of the Milwaukee plan (Danielle Bell) and Toledo plan (Susan Hall) will be featured in an online "Meet the Designers" event. The program is free. Details and registration link at nativegardendesigns.wildones.org/



Selecting Your Tree—Diverse and Unique Species with Jay Weiss, Thursday, March 11, noon to 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

Jay Weiss is the Director of the Cambridge Tree Project and Cambridge Tree Trials. He helped the Village of Cambridge increase its tree species diversity from 35 species in 2004 to 164 different species by 2020. During the same time, the Cambridge Tree Trials have been monitoring the growth and health of the trees. Jay will share what he thinks people should consider when planting a new tree and he will use his data to show just how fast trees can grow (some species grow up to 3 feet taller a year!). Tune in to hear Jay's suggestions for new and exciting tree species to plant in your yard – you won't want to miss it. This webinar is part of a series on tree care called Leafing Out, sponsored by 1000 Friends of Wisconsin and funded in part by the DNR.

Registration Link: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlkc-Guqj4vGN3Z5Xu3w3W6bln8xsoPrO9c>

Growing Healthy Plants, Basics in Plant Disease Management, Tuesday, March 16, 1 – 2: 30 p.m., online

Brian Hudelson of the UW's Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic discusses common methods for disease control, their pros and cons, and how you can adapt these techniques for use in your own home garden. This Zoom seminar is free but you must register by March 15 at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdi-ZB3e2cydil-UZiVRTSy--fhF-cfZEEwIKYnjv8mJnEyVQ/viewform>

Think Spring Gardening Series, Starting Tuesday March 16, online

The University of Illinois Extension is offering a virtual Think Spring Gardening Series this year. The series will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, March 16 till April 1. All the presentations are scheduled from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. via Zoom. You must pre-register. The series is free of charge, but donations are being accepted to help offset the cost of Extension programming. Detailed info on each class and registration are at <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=23189>

March 16: Designing a Garden to Attract Birds

March 18: Lessons from the Red Oak Rain Garden

March 23: Bulb Lasagna – Creating Layers (with Mark Dwyer)

March 25: 50 Shapes of Shade

March 30: Succulent Wreaths (*This class may not qualify for CE credit for MGVs.*)

April 1: Starting Seeds Successfully

**Climate Change and Wisconsin's Forests: What We Know, What We Expect, and How to Adapt,
Thursday, March 18, 10-11:30 a.m.**

The UW Arboretum presents Stephen Handler, Climate Change Specialist, United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service and Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science. Fee: \$10. Register by March 14 at <https://arboretum.wisc.edu/learn/adult-education/winter-enrichment/winter-enrichment-registration/>

Shoreline Gardening for Healthy Lakes, Thursday, March 18, 6-7:30 p.m.

Healthy shorelines provide many benefits, especially when it comes to keeping our lakes free from pollution and places where we want to live and play. In this webinar, you will learn what rain gardens are and how this special type of low maintenance garden can filter pollutants, recharge the groundwater and reduce pollution of local waterways. You will also learn the attributes of intact, healthy shorelines, and what services they provide, including habitat, improved water quality and decreased erosion. This is a free event, but registration is required. Once registered, a connection link to the webinar will be sent the *day before the event*. Please use the following link to register: <https://go.wisc.edu/663c99>



**Container Gardening Basics and Beyond,
Saturday, March 20, 9-10:30 a.m., via Webex**

The UW-Whitewater is hosting this seminar featuring Mark Dwyer. The classes will use the Webex platform, which is free to download and use. **Container Gardening Basics and Beyond** takes place March 20, 2021, also from 9-10:30 a.m. Fees is \$25. Sign up at www.uww.edu/ce/personal-enrichment/gardenlandscape/gardeningworkshops

Classes at Olbrich Botanical Gardens

These classes take place on-line *except as noted*. For a more detailed description of each class, go to the Education tab at www.olbrich.org and select the Classes and Workshops option. Each class description also has a registration link to sign up. The prices listed are for Olbrich members/general public.

The registration deadline for the following 3 classes has passed, but if you're really interested, you could call and ask if you can still get in: 608-246-4550

Mar. 4, Proper Pruning of Deciduous Trees, 1-3:00 p.m., \$13/\$16 Register by Feb. 22

Mar. 4, Designing with Foliage, 6:30-8:00 p.m. \$13/\$17 Register by Feb. 22

Mar. 9, Functional and Funky Ways to Conserve Organic Matter for a Healthier Garden, 6-8:00 p.m. \$13/\$16 Register by Feb. 28

Registration is still open for these classes:



Mar. 12, Your Garden Can Feed You All Year, 6-8:00 p.m. \$26/\$34 Register by Mar. 2

Mar. 14, Hands-on Hydrangea Pruning (in person at Olbrich Gardens), 1-4:00 p.m. \$32/\$40 (This class is currently full, but if you're interested, check periodically to see if openings arise.)

Mar. 25, Nature's Best Hope (Native Plants and Sustainable Ecosystem Gardening), 7-8:30 p.m. \$12/\$15 Register by Mar. 24

Apr. 1, Gardening 101, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (in person at Olbrich Gardens), \$62/\$76 Register by Mar. 22

Apr. 2, The A-Z of Landscaping Questions You Forgot to Ask, 6-8:00 p.m., \$13/\$16 Register by Mar. 28

Apr. 6, Landscape Your Way to a Dry Basement, 6-7:30 p.m., \$12/\$15 Register by Mar. 28

Apr. 7, Spring into Gardening (in person at Olbrich Gardens), 5:30-7 p.m. \$18/\$22 Register by Mar. 28

Apr. 8, Ground Covers for Sun and Shade, 6:30-8:30, \$13/\$16 Register by Mar. 29

Talk on Managing Pollinator Plantings, Wednesday, March 31, Noon-1 p.m., online

UW-Arboretum's Senior Outreach Specialist Susan Carpenter specializes in native plant gardening and pollinator conservation. She's teaming up with UW-Extension Weed Specialist Dr. Mark Renz to give a talk on keeping your pollinator plantings healthy and growing. The exact title and details of the program are yet to be released, but Rock County MGVs will receive more information via email when it becomes available.

The Morton Arboretum, continued

Here are some of the things you'd find on a visit to the Arboretum:

Acorn Express tram tours (temporarily suspended due to Covid)

Experience the beauty of The Morton Arboretum's 1,700 acres on a guided tram tour. This one-hour ride winds you through the Arboretum's woodlands, wetlands, and prairie while listening to a narrated tour. It's a good way to get your bearings on a first visit or to enjoy the Arboretum without straining your legs!

Arboretum Roads and Trails

Paved roads and maintained trails weave through The Morton Arboretum, providing people multiple ways to take in the beautiful landscape all year-round.

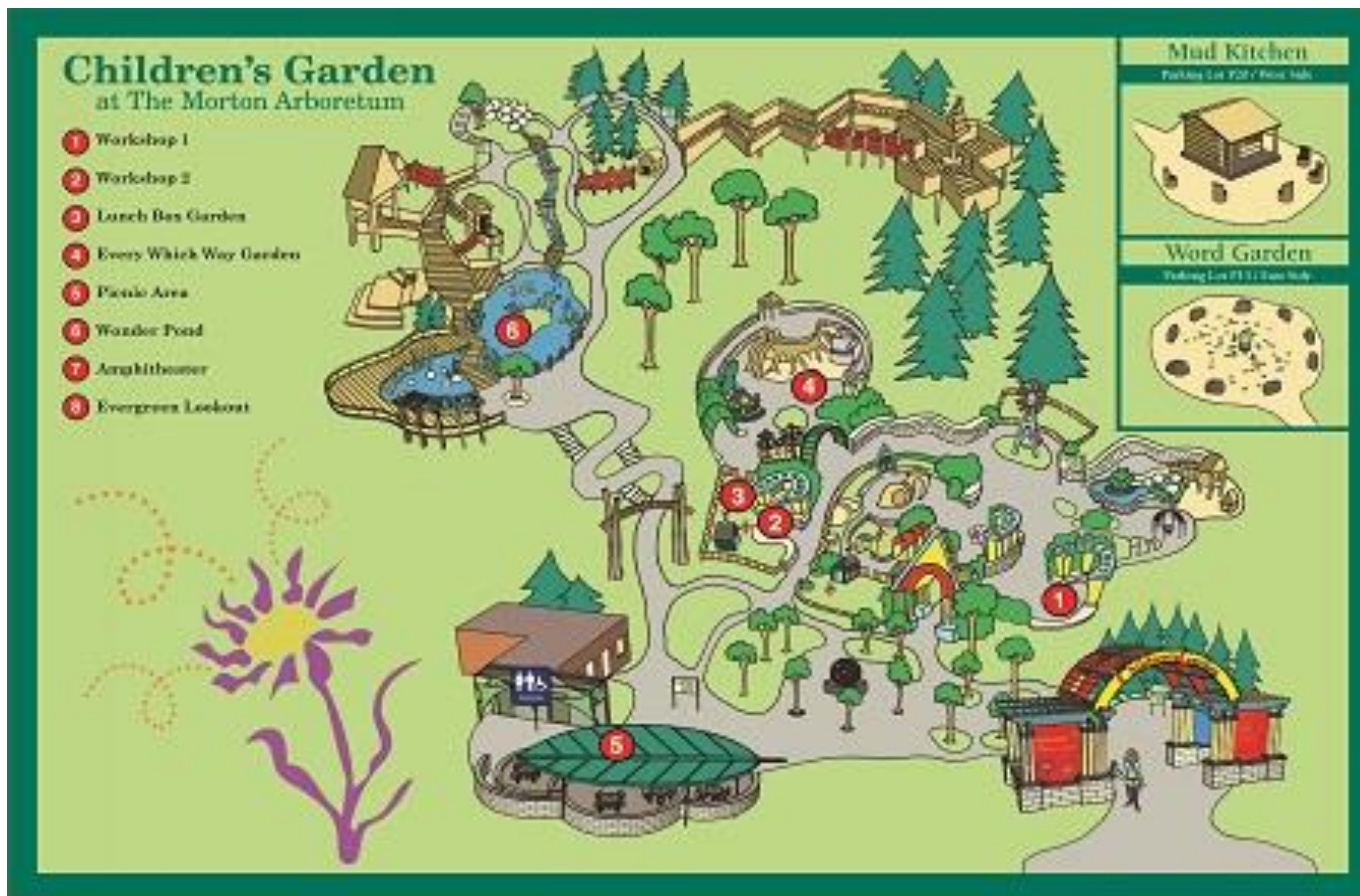
- Biking – There are nine miles of paved roads that wind through the magnificent tree collections. Hop on a bicycle, and explore the expansive grounds in a new and adventurous way all year-round, weather permitting.
- Hiking -- Many visitors prefer to hike throughout The Morton Arboretum because it lets them experience nature up close, in new and intimate ways. The Arboretum maintains trails just for hiking, or walking, or strolling—for the express purpose of allowing people a serene experience among the trees.
- Running -- The sights, sounds, and smells that change with the season, as well as the safe roads and varied terrain, make the Arboretum a runner's paradise year-round.



- Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing -- Embrace the snowy season and trek through the 1,700 acres of The Morton Arboretum's winter wonderland on skis or snowshoes. Visitors are invited to bring their own cross-country skis or snowshoes to explore the grounds from 7 a.m. to sunset when there is 4" or more of snow on the ground. Seasonal rentals are also available at the Visitor Center.

Children's Garden (Open with modified operations)

The Children's Garden at The Morton Arboretum is a natural playground for children of all ages. Daily learning programs and interactive exhibits inspire kids and families to connect with nature.



Tree and Plant Collections

The Morton Arboretum is a living museum, and the tree and plant collections that adorn the landscape are nature's works of art with a purpose. The collections consist of more than 222,000 plants from 40 countries and provide beauty, knowledge, and a healthier environment.



Vanishing Acts: Trees Under Threat

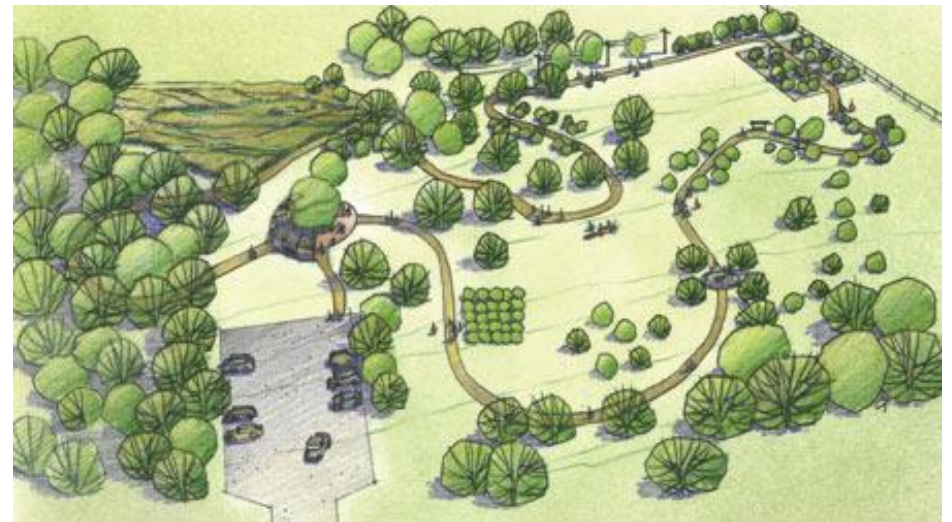
Vanishing Acts: Trees Under Threat is an exhibit at the Arboretum focused on saving endangered trees.

Google Cultural Institute

The Morton Arboretum has partnered with the Google Cultural Institute to create three online exhibits that invite you to share an interactive, dynamic, and immersive discovery experience of the diversity and fragility of nature, featuring the science and collections of The Morton Arboretum.

Gateway to Tree Science

The new Gateway to Tree Science exhibit will provide an up-close look at The Morton Arboretum's tree-focused research, with insightful information and ongoing, real-time experiments rooted in nearly a century of tree expertise.



Tree-mendous Tree Stories

An online project of The Morton Arboretum and Openlands launched on Arbor Day, Friday, April 27, 2018. Tree-mendous Tree Stories is a platform for Chicago-area residents to share favorite stories about the trees that define our communities, our memories, our landscapes, and our lives. Add your own story at: <http://tree-stories.org/>

Conifer Exhibit

Fourteen panels on conifers interpreting recent research, endangered species, cultural connections, and conservation efforts created by The Morton Arboretum's interpretation team.

Collections and Creations

The Morton Arboretum's living collections represent one of the most comprehensive collections of woody plants in North America. Throughout the Arboretum's history, it has acquired plants from 40 countries in the northern temperate zone of the world.

The collections are displayed in beautiful landscape settings and are designed for both enjoyment and educational purposes. Plants are selected for their ability to perform well in Northern Illinois' challenging climate of hot summers and freezing cold winters, as well as for their adaptation to our soils. The collections represent a diversity of plants from around the world and here in the U.S. Additionally, 90 different kinds of plants on the grounds are considered threatened or endangered on state, federal, or world lists. The collections today include over 222,000 living plants in our collections belonging to nearly 4,650 taxa. Specimens are arranged according to three groups:

Geographic collections

The geographic collections feature plants from the temperate regions (regions which lie between the Tropic of Cancer and the Arctic Circle) in Asia, Europe, and North America.





Taxonomic collections

The majority of collections at the Arboretum are organized by scientific plant groups. This is an effective way to study plant families and genera, and offers an exceptional opportunity to compare related plant species first-hand. Six taxonomic collections at The Morton Arboretum are accredited by the American Public Gardens Association's Plant Collection Network for their conservation value and high standards of curation: oak, elm, maple, magnolia, crabapple, and linden.

Special habitats

Several collections on The Morton Arboretum's grounds are grouped together based on features other than geography or taxonomy.

Plants in this special habitat collection are grouped by such traits as plant size, plant soil requirements, and horticultural traits.

Find All the Plants

The Morton Arboretum's complete database of all the plants in our collections, including their locations on our grounds, is online at <https://www.mortonarb.org/>

If You Go...

This virtual tour has only scratched the surface of the myriad of exhibits and educational opportunities available at The Morton Arboretum.

To search for programs for your family and friends to attend: <https://www.mortonarb.org/learn-experience>

When you plan to visit The Morton Arboretum go to their website and read through the information you'll need to know to make the most of your trip.

You will find a wealth of information at: <https://www.mortonarb.org/visit-explore/plan-visit>

The garden is located at 4100 IL-53, Lisle, Illinois. It is currently open from 7:00 a.m. until sunset (last entry time at 3:00 p.m.). Advance, timed-entry passes/ticket reservations are required and must be arranged online. Please see www.mortonarb.org to purchase tickets and to learn about the Arboretum's public health measures in response to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

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