



The 13th International Turfgrass
Research Conference



13th ITRC Technical Tour Information Sheet

The New York Botanical Gardens



The New York Botanical Garden (<http://www.nybg.org/>), a U.S. National Historic Landmark located in the Bronx boro of New York City, is a 250 acre garden, conservatory, research, and education center that was founded in 1891. The site was originally part of the grounds of the Lorillard Estate, formerly owned by the tobacco magnate Pierre Lorillard. The idea for the Botanical Garden arose after Nathaniel Lord Britton, a Columbia University botanist, and his wife Elizabeth, also a botanist, visited

the Royal Botanic Garden at Kew in England on their honeymoon and thought a similar park and conservatory should be built in New York City.

The property contains over 50 individual gardens, including an azalea garden, perennial garden, conifer garden, seasonal garden, native plants garden, children's garden, and the famous Peggy Rockefeller rose garden, to name a few. Additional outdoor features include an expansive rock garden, wetlands trail, natural waterfall and gentle rapids of the Bronx river (the only freshwater river in NYC), an historic stone mill, and 50 acres of never logged, old-growth forest containing oaks, American beeches, cherry, birch, tulip and white ash trees (some more than two centuries old).

In addition to the numerous gardens and outdoor features, the site also includes the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, the LuEsther T. Mertz Botanical library, the William and Lynda Steere Herbarium (holding over 7 million preserved specimens), and the Pfizer Plant Research Laboratories. These sites not only function as part of the gardens, but also serve as world class research, education and outreach programs.

The New York Botanical Garden attracts over 300,000 visitors each year. Among these visitors are school children, teachers, and continuing education students who learn about plant science, ecology, and conservation in both hands-on and classroom settings. Additionally the gardens employ over 200 staff members, including over 80 Ph.D. scientists working in plant research and conservation programs.