

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Green Bay Botanical Garden Hosts Wisconsin's Only Accredited Magnolia Collection

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(Green Bay, WI) (March 25, 2019) – [Green Bay Botanical Garden](#) is proud to be among the more than 15 arboreta and botanical gardens across the US, Canada and Mexico to be recognized this spring as a [Nationally Accredited Magnolia Multisite Collection™](#), the only [Plant Collections Network](#) collection in Wisconsin. The Plant Collections Network is administered by the [American Public Gardens Association](#), which serves public gardens and advances them as leaders, advocates and innovators.

The multi-institutional collaborative allows for the curation and study of *Magnolia* at a magnitude unachievable by a single site, with the potential to expand as the group continues to grow in both size and regional diversity.

Most of the Green Bay Botanical Garden's collection resides in its half-acre Magnolia Grove, with the remainder spread throughout the grounds. The Garden is home to 143 magnolias and 122 taxa, with 17 taxa unique to the Plant Collections Network. Located in USDA Hardiness Zone 5a (-20°F to -15°F is the average annual minimum winter temperature), Green Bay Botanical Garden is the coldest site in the Magnolia Multisite Collection. However, during the winter of 2019, temperatures of -26°F and -25°F were recorded at the Garden – the equivalent of USDA Hardiness zone 4b.

Many of the Garden's cultivars (magnolia varieties) represent the breeding work of local hybridizer, [Dennis Ledvina](#), whose lifelong work concentrated on creating magnolias with unique characteristics, including:

- later bloom times to reduce the impact of late-spring frosts
- cold-hardy magnolias for USDA hardiness zones 4 and 5
- extended magnolia bloom periods
- increased diversity of bloom color and flower form
- multi-lobed magnolias with significant red/pink color

Considered a plant staple in the warmer US South, magnolias thrive on the Garden's grounds and survive the winter months well, putting forth trees of flowers during May and blooming for approximately one to two weeks, depending on the weather.

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May also is peak time for Green Bay Botanical Garden's annual bulb display – Spring Blooms at the Garden – featuring 45,000 new blooms this spring, adding to the existing 300,000 color-rich bulbs. Stop and smell the tulips, daffodils, flowering perennials, crabapples and other blossoms this Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12, when moms can enjoy free admittance to the Green Bay Botanical Garden. Visit www.GBBG.org to learn more.

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Editors, please note: For interviews, questions, additional high-res images and other editorial needs, please contact one of the press representatives listed on the top of this release. Caption follows photo below.



Green Bay Botanical Garden, Green Bay, Wisconsin, is proud to be among the more than 15 arboreta and botanical gardens across the US, Canada and Mexico to be recognized this spring as a Nationally Accredited Magnolia Multisite Collection™, the only Plant Collections Network collection in Wisconsin. (Green Bay Botanical Garden photo by Teresa Hilgenberg Riehl)

About Green Bay Botanical Garden

Green Bay Botanical Garden is a 100-percent, community-supported nonprofit organization that connects people with plants in an environment that engages, inspires and refreshes. First opened in 1996 and now featuring 47-acres of display gardens and natural areas, the Garden touches the lives of more than 180,000 visitors annually from northeast Wisconsin and beyond. This summer, the Garden will welcome its first butterfly exhibit, Butterflies & Blooms, featuring more than 20 native butterfly species and the plants they love. For more information about other spring happenings, visit www.GBBG.org or call 920.490.9457.