

Other Fun Facts:

- Luca Ghini is credited with creating Orto Botanico di Pisa, the first botanical garden in Europe, in 1544.
- George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison all supported the idea of a national botanic garden and contributed to the founding of the U.S. Botanic Garden on the National Mall in 1820.
- Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England is the largest and most botanically diverse botanical garden in the world.
- The words "botanic" and "botanical" are interchangeable and are both correct, although botanical is more common today.

We'd Love to Hear from You!

Laurie Bahnatka, QLT Consumer Lease Services, 240 Cedar Knolls Rd Ste 108, Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927. Or, if you prefer, you may email Laurie at info@qtlcls.com.



U.S. Botanic Garden Conservatory



QLT Spotlight

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Botanic Word Search



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|--------------|-----------|---------|
| Conservation | Succulent | Display |
| Greenhouse | Herbarium | Library |
| Laboratory | Phenology | Exotic |
| Botanical | Research | Physic |
| Education | Medicinal | |
| Arboretum | Taxonomy | |



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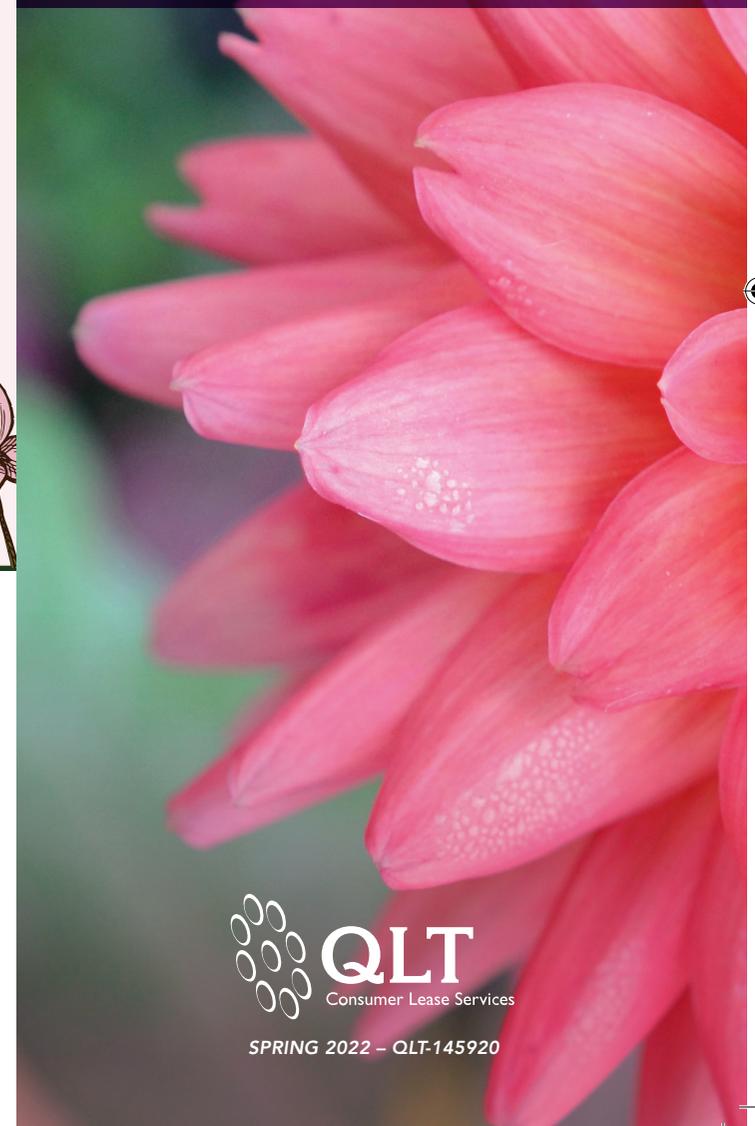
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NEWS & VIEWS

BOTANIC GARDENS

Take in all that is new and growing.



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Research, Conservation, Display, Education

Spring is upon us. It's a time to get outdoors, enjoy the fresh air, and take in all that is new and growing! For many of us it's time to plan our gardens, and we trek to our local garden centers to get started. Another great resource for inspiration and education around plants is the **Botanical Garden nearest you.**



There are around 1800 botanical gardens in the world, and over 250 in the U.S. These gardens are beautiful and historic repositories of wide varieties of plants, and they are some of our most important centers for education and scientific research on plants, the environment, and climate change.

Botanical gardens may have special collections such as herbs, exotic plants, or succulents. They may contain greenhouses, arboretums (places for cultivating trees), herbaria (for growing herbs), libraries and laboratories, as well as areas for public events, performances, and special exhibits.

Collections may be placed in geographic, taxonomic (how plants are classified), and thematic groups:

- San Francisco Botanical Garden has been cultivating a Mesoamerican Cloud Forest since 1984!
- Atlanta Botanical Garden has the largest collection of orchid species on display in the U.S.

- Botanical gardens are uniquely equipped in the study of phenology, or the events that mark changes in nature's cycles, like flowers blooming and animals migrating. The Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix has a Spring Butterfly Exhibit that sees thousands of butterflies taking flight, and teaches how **the creatures evolve from caterpillars and care for their environment.**



- The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden uses 90,000 pumpkins to create a Pumpkin Village every fall!

History

Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) defines a botanic garden as an institution with "documented collections of living plants for the purpose of scientific research, conservation, display and education."

People have cultivated gardens for study since ancient times, with evidence going back to the third or fourth millennium BCE in Egypt and Mesopotamia. **The first gardens with scientific study as a stated goal were established in Italy in the 16th century.** These "physic gardens," which focused on the study of medicinal plants and herbs, were popular throughout Europe. Later centuries brought a shift toward the study and cultivation of plants obtained on tropical expeditions and brought back to England, Spain, the Netherlands, and France, to name just a few.

The first botanical garden established in the U.S. was Elgin Botanic Garden in New York City on the site of what is now Rockefeller Center. But **the oldest surviving botanic garden in the U.S. is Bartram's Garden,** founded in 1828 in Philadelphia, while the Missouri Botanical Garden, founded in 1859, is the oldest continually operating botanical garden in the U.S.

Today's botanical gardens provide a link between the scientific community and the general public in an era of increasing environmental awareness, providing education around their ongoing studies in plant sustainability and conservation.

Botanical gardens all over the U.S. get the public involved in our natural world in creative ways like educational programs and unique multimedia events. Many are open year-round and have spectacular seasonal displays. It's very easy to support the garden-keepers who are cultivating for our common future. **One visit can give you more inspiration for your own garden than you ever imagined possible!**

