



# University of Alberta Devonian Botanic Garden

## Fact Sheet

### The Garden

The University of Alberta Devonian Botanic Garden is a 240-acre property, located in Parkland County, 15 minutes southwest of Edmonton, Alberta, near the town of Devon. One of the northernmost major botanic gardens in Canada, the Devonian Botanic Garden is home to a collection of over 8,000 actively managed plants, as well as extensive natural areas. Display areas include annual and perennial borders, water features, extensive Herb and Alpine gardens, a Native Peoples Garden, a Sensory Garden, peony, lilac, lily and primrose collections, hardy rose collections, desert gardens, a Plants of Alberta border, fruit and vegetable gardens and more. Three indoor show houses (including a Tropical Plant and Butterfly House, Arid Plant House and Temperate Showhouse) and the Kurimoto Japanese Garden, a beautiful 5-acre garden, are popular highlights.

The Devonian Botanic Garden is a unit of the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences at the University of Alberta.

The Garden was named the 2014 Botanical Garden of the Year by Canada's Garden Tourism Council, and won the 2013 Emerald Award for excellence in environmental education.

### History

The Garden was established in 1959, with the donation of land to the U of A by the late Colonel Sandy Dyde, a prominent Edmonton lawyer. In ensuing years, the land was developed as a botanic garden and field laboratory. With the opening of the Kurimoto Japanese Garden in 1990, the Garden opened its gates to visitors on a daily basis, spring through fall. Today, over 70,000 people visit the DBG annually, from nearby and around the world.


In 2009, His Highness the Aga Khan made a gift of an Islamic Garden to the University of Alberta, to be situated at the Devonian Botanic Garden. The project is in final design development stages and construction is expected to begin in 2016.

### Education Programs

Over 100,000 school children have taken part in the Garden's award-winning environmental education programs. In the award-winning Kids-in-the-Garden field trip and Green School programs, children spend anywhere from a day to a week outside with DBG naturalists, engaged in a hands-on study of the natural world. The DBG also offers adult continuing education year-round, with courses in horticulture, landscape design, arts, crafts and personal wellness. In addition, a Master Gardener Certificate Program provides year-long, intensive training for horticulture professionals and serious hobby gardeners.

### Special Events

The Garden offers special events throughout the year, attracting visitors with children's events, art exhibits, musical performances, horticultural events and cultural events such as the Japanese Spring



Festival. In December, the Garden opens for three evenings for Luminaria, where of candles light the paths of the Japanese Garden in a breathtaking display, an annual event treasured by thousands of visitors.

## Research

The DBG is the site of research on topics as diverse as fungal associations, mosses, forest fires, bat and frog monitoring, and oilsands and wetland reclamation. The Garden is part of a global network of botanic gardens working to understand and preserve biodiversity, and is a partner in the Millennium Seed Bank at Kew Gardens in England, the largest plant conservation project in the world.

## Visitor Information

The Garden is open daily to visitors, May 1 through Thanksgiving. Services include a gift shop, outdoor patio café, regularly scheduled tram tours and group discounts. Much of the Garden is accessible to wheelchairs and strollers on an extensive brick pathway system. Minimum recommended visit duration is two hours, though a longer visit is suggested in order to enjoy more of the extensive features of the garden.

### **For more information, contact:**

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