

# The Changing Role of Botanical Gardens in Today's Society

Additional Learning Resources for  
Third Age Learning – Art Gallery of Burlington  
29 October 2015

Prepared and Presented by

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## Third Age Learning - Web Site Synopsis

The presentation will include a quick review of the history of botanical gardens and their importance to society and how this has changed over the years. Examples of several key Botanical Gardens, worldwide will be discussed and showcased. We will discuss why botanical gardens are such important elements of the cultural fabric of cities around the world.

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“The many great gardens of the world, of literature and poetry, of painting and music, of religion and architecture, all make the point as clear as possible: The soul cannot thrive in the absence of a garden. If you don't want paradise, you are not human; and if you are not human, you don't have a soul.”

— Thomas More

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## **Links to Web sites of a variety of botanical gardens:**

Some Canadian Botanical Gardens:

- Memorial University of Newfoundland Botanical Garden (St. Johns, Newfoundland and Labrador): <http://www.mun.ca/botgarden/>
- Montreal Botanical Garden (Montreal, Quebec): <http://espacepourelavie.ca/en/botanical-garden>
- Niagara Parks Botanical Garden and School of Horticulture (Niagara Falls, Ontario): <http://www.niagaraparks.com/school-of-horticulture/>
- Royal Botanical Gardens (Hamilton and Burlington, Ontario): <http://www.rbg.ca>
- Toronto Botanical Garden (Toronto, Ontario): <http://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/>
- University of Alberta Devonian Botanic Garden (near Edmonton, Alberta): <http://www.devonian.ualberta.ca/>
- University of British Columbia Botanical Garden and Plant Research Centre (Vancouver, British Columbia): <http://www.botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/>
- University of Guelph Arboretum (Guelph, Ontario): <http://www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum/>

Some Botanical Gardens on the International Stage:

- Atlanta Botanical Garden (Atlanta, Georgia, USA): <http://atlantabg.org/>
- Brooklyn Botanical Garden (Brooklyn, New York, USA): <http://www.bbg.org/>
- Chicago Botanic Garden (Glencoe, Illinois, USA): <http://www.chicagobotanic.org/>

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- The Eden Project (Bodelva, Cornwall, UK): <https://www.edenproject.com/>
- King's Park and Botanic Gardens (Kings Park, Western Australia, Australia): <http://www.bgpa.wa.gov.au/kings-park>
- Meadowlark Botanical Gardens (Vienna, Virginia, USA): [https://www.nvrpa.org/park/meadowlark\\_botanical\\_gardens](https://www.nvrpa.org/park/meadowlark_botanical_gardens)
- Missouri Botanical Garden (St. Louis, Missouri, USA): <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/>
- National Botanic Gardens of Ireland (Glasnevin, Dublin, Ireland): <http://www.botanicgardens.ie/>
- New York Botanic Garden (New York, New York, USA): <http://www.nybg.org/>
- Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden (Claremont, California, USA): <http://www.rsabg.org/>
- Royal Botanic Garden of Jordan (Tal Al-Rumman, Al Balqa Governorate, Jordan): <http://royalbotanicgarden.org/>
- Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (Richmond, Surrey, UK): <http://www.kew.org/>
- Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (Edinburgh, Scotland, UK): <http://www.rbge.org.uk/>

### Additional Resources On-Line:

The American Public Gardens Association (APGA) is the very large North America-wide professional body for botanical gardens and their staff. The APGA is on-line at:

- <http://www.publicgardens.org/>

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A biography of George Lawson, founder of one of the first botanical gardens in Canada, at Queen's College, Kingston:

Zeller, S. 2003. LAWSON, GEORGE. In Dictionary of Canadian Biography, vol. 12, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003–, accessed September 28, 2015, [http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/lawson\\_george\\_12E.html](http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/lawson_george_12E.html).

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Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) is a great source of information about the work of botanical gardens and arboreta, world-wide. Although this not-for-profit association primarily focuses on the conservation of plants, they also have been producing great reference material and fostering discussions on education, the social role of botanical gardens, and other relevant topics. Many of their publications are available on-line, free of charge.

BGCI Web site: <http://www.bgci.org>

One of the most important undertakings of BGCI has been the creation of the International Agenda for Botanic Gardens in Conservation. First released in 2000, this has now been updated as a second edition.

The second edition is now available on-line: [http://www.bgci.org/policy/international\\_agenda/](http://www.bgci.org/policy/international_agenda/)

Some relevant BGCI Reports:

Dodd, J., and C. Jones. 2010. Botanic Gardens: Toward a New Social Purpose. Botanic Gardens Conservation International. Richmond, Surrey, UK. ISBN 9781898489481. Available on-line at:

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<http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/museumstudies/rcmg/projects/redefining-the-role-of-botanic-gardens/Redefining%20the%20Social%20Role%20of%20Botanic%20Gardens.pdf>

Vergou, A. and J. Willison. 2013. Communities in Nature: Growing the Social Role of Botanic Gardens. Botanic Gardens Conservation International. Richmond, Surrey, UK. On-line document: <http://www.gulbenkian.org.uk/files/09-07-13-CiN%20Summary%20Report%20of%20Evaluation%20-%20Med%20Res.pdf>

BGCI's GardenSearch – an on-line directory of over 2,800 botanical gardens and allied institutions world-wide:

- [http://www.bgci.org/garden\\_search.php](http://www.bgci.org/garden_search.php)

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Botanical gardens have been involved in the development of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, or GSPC, part of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. The Web Site of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is the formal site for the CBD and the GSPC:

- <http://www.cbd.int>

This web site also has the 2009 Global Plant Conservation Report, prepared as part of the update to the GSPC.

The Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (GPPC) was established to support the implementation of the GSPC. It has a web site at:

- <http://www.plants2010.org>

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A great resource site intended as a teaching resource. Includes an overview of what botanical gardens do, with a focus on plant conservation and sustainability issues. Also includes many helpful web links, although some are now outdated:

Rinker, H. B. 2002. The Weight of a Petal: The Value of Botanical Gardens. ActionBioscience. On-line Document. URL: <http://www.actionbioscience.org/biodiversity/rinker2.html> Accessed 13 October 2015

### **A Smattering of Literature on Botanical Gardens**

Dehgan, B. 2014. Public Garden Management: A Global Perspective: Volume I. Xlibris Corporation. ISBN 978-1493161782

Dehgan, B. 2014. Public Garden Management: A Global Perspective: Volume II. Xlibris Corporation. ISBN 978-1493161812

Galbraith, D. A., and Rapley, W. A. 2005. Research at Canadian Zoos and Botanical Gardens. Museum Management and Curatorship 20: 313–331.

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- Monen, N. 2007. Botanic Gardens: A Living History. Black Dog Publishing Limited London. ISBN 978-1904772729
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- Track, N. S. 1994. Canada's royal garden: portraits and reflections. Penguin Books Canada, Limited. ISBN 0670856878
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