

Royal Botanical Gardens' prized iris collection in bloom

Burlington ON, June 11, 2020 — Visitors to Royal Botanical Gardens' (RBG) Laking Garden will be mesmerized by brilliant colour combinations as its iris collection is reaching peak bloom. Visitors can also explore the peony collection and perennial borders as part of RBG's phased reopening of all outdoor gardens.

"You really have to come to RBG and immerse yourself in this collection to gain a full sensory experience that iris can provide," said RBG Curator of Collections, Alex Henderson. "We have over 1,000 irises displaying an array of brilliant colour and the fragrance is truly captivating."

Planted in 1947, the iris collection was RBG's first herbaceous collection of importance with the main focus on tall bearded iris. There are approximately 250 species of wild iris found around the world and several are planted here. The name iris derives from Greek meaning rainbow, referring to the wide variety of flower colors found among the many species and cultivars. RBG's collection includes award-winning bearded iris and hundreds of others including miniature bearded, dwarf bearded, intermediate bearded, border bearded, tall bearded, Siberian, spuria and wild species iris.

The garden also features a broad selection of tree and herbaceous peony cultivars, as well as several ancestral wild species. The Greeks referred to peonies as 'the Queen of all herbs' while the Chinese considered them 'the King of all flowers'. Over time, peonies have been used ethnobotanically as a medicinal plant, as a spice, for making tea, as a perfume and the seeds were even used as jewelry.

As part of a phased reopening, Royal Botanical Gardens has opened outdoor garden areas that include Hendrie Park, Laking Garden, David Braley and Nancy Gordon Rock Garden and the Arboretum from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (last admission at 4 p.m.), seven days a week.

RBG is welcoming its community to experience the beauty of the Gardens in a safe and respectful manner as it continues a phased reopening by providing access to these celebrated outdoor gardens. RBG Centre and the Rock Garden Visitor Centre will be open only to provide access to garden areas. Building amenities and areas such as the Mediterranean Garden remain closed to the public.

All visitors to Royal Botanical Gardens trails must follow Provincial measures and guidelines to allow RBG to remain open safely. Please see the [full re-opening FAQ at rbg.ca](https://www.rbg.ca/full-re-opening-faq) for more detailed information.

About Laking Garden

RBG's Laking Garden (located at 1260 Spring Gardens Road, Burlington) is set on a fertile terraced plain, formerly a market garden, and is home to RBG's herbaceous perennial collections. The belvedere at the end of the path offers a panoramic view over the entire garden. This garden, overlooked by a small cottage, offers the visitor an insight into the depth and breadth of perennial plants.

For More Iris Info and Photos:

[RBG's Spring Press Kit](#)

[Iris Collection](#)

To book a weekday media tour with an RBG horticulturist, or for more information, contact:

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