

A heavenly fragrance: RBG's world-renowned lilac collection in bloom **Royal Botanical Gardens' Arboretum now accessible to the public as part of phased reopening**

Hamilton, ON. May 29, 2020 – A heavenly fragrance is drifting through Royal Botanical Gardens' (RBG's) Arboretum, marking the official start of lilac season. Visitors to RBG can captivate their senses with one of the world's largest and diverse lilac collections as RBG opens its Arboretum to the public for discounted general admission as part of a phased opening. The Arboretum will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (last admission at 4 p.m.), seven days a week as part of the opening, while RBG's other garden areas remain temporarily closed.

"To visit the Gardens' lilac dell at this time of year is the ultimate sensory experience," said Alex Henderson, RBG's curator of collections. "The selection of cultivars found here is unparalleled. Visitors will not only experience the beauty and fragrance of these prized blooms; they'll see how a botanical garden curates its collections and the role it plays in plant biodiversity, all while getting outdoors for some much need respite during these challenging times."

The Lilac Dell exhibits over 800 species and cultivars of common lilacs. French hybrids form the basis of the collection, but also displayed are Preston hybrids (originated in Canada by Isabella Preston), early-bloomers, such as hyacinth lilacs and a selection of species found in the wild. On more challenging terrain, The Katie Osborne Lilac Collection in the Lilac Dell is one of the most assorted and one of the definitive collections to demonstrate the range of the genus *Syringa*. This popular seasonal attraction provides visitors with weeks of delightful springtime colour and fragrance. Peak bloom time for lilacs generally lasts two to four weeks.

Admission to the Arboretum will be available on a first come, first served basis with limited parking capacity. As the Arboretum is a popular attraction during this time of year, RBG may not be able to accommodate all arrivals during peak hours due to limited capacity and lineups. Admission includes access to select looped Cootes Paradise trails. To reduce crowding, access to North Shore Cootes Paradise trails will be restricted through Arboretum admission.

Entry begins at 10 a.m., with last admission at 4 p.m., The Arboretum will close at 5 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to limit their visit to a one-hour maximum in order to give others the opportunity to experience the beauty of Royal Botanical Gardens.

Admission at entry is limited to debit and credit transactions. General admission tickets are available online at www.rbg.ca but no priority access will be given to a pre-purchased ticket.

Admission Rates (Access to Arboretum and select trails, other garden areas remain closed):

- Adult: \$15
- Senior / Student: \$13
- Child (age 4-12): \$8
- Family rate (2 adults and 2 children under the age of 18): \$40
- RBG Members FREE

The health and safety of staff, volunteers and visitors remains RBG's top priority. RBG staff and volunteers will be following safety protocols and wearing personal protective equipment and RBG recommends that visitors do the same. Portable washrooms and hand sanitizing stations will be available for visitor use.

RBG continues to celebrate its blooms with the *Spring Flower Hunt*, a contest that showcases what is blooming at the Gardens each week. Visitors to the new RBG website can hunt for the signature bloom hidden on the pages of the site for their chance to win an RBG prize pack – a one-year RBG family membership and lunch for four at one of RBG's onsite restaurant (to be redeemed once RBG fully re-opens). RBG reveals the weekly bloom every Thursday on its [RBG at Home](#) page and across all social media channels. The contest allows visitors to navigate RBG's new website and learn about its collections.

About the Arboretum

RBG's Arboretum (located at 16 Old Guelph Road, Hamilton) is open 10.a.m to 5 p.m. seven days a week and is more like an English landscape park than a garden. It has a wide variety of trees and other woody plants and, except for the lilac walk and the shrub collection, has few formal paths. It is a great place for watching and experiencing animal and plant interactions and connects with many of RBG's nature trails. RBG general admission is required to experience the Arboretum. Admission is free to RBG members.

For More Lilac Info and Photos:

[RBG's Spring Press Kit](#)

[Katie Osborne Lilac Garden](#)

[BLOG: Alex Henderson, Curator of Collections; In Celebration of Lilacs](#)

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For more information, or to book a weekday media tour with an RBG horticulturist, contact:

Nick Kondrat
Manager, Communications
Royal Botanical Gardens
(905) 577-3398
nkondrat@rbg.ca