



Protecting Hemlocks, Together

Donor Impact in Action

This summer, your gifts helped protect some of the most ecologically significant trees in our care, the Eastern Hemlock. Known as the “Redwood of the

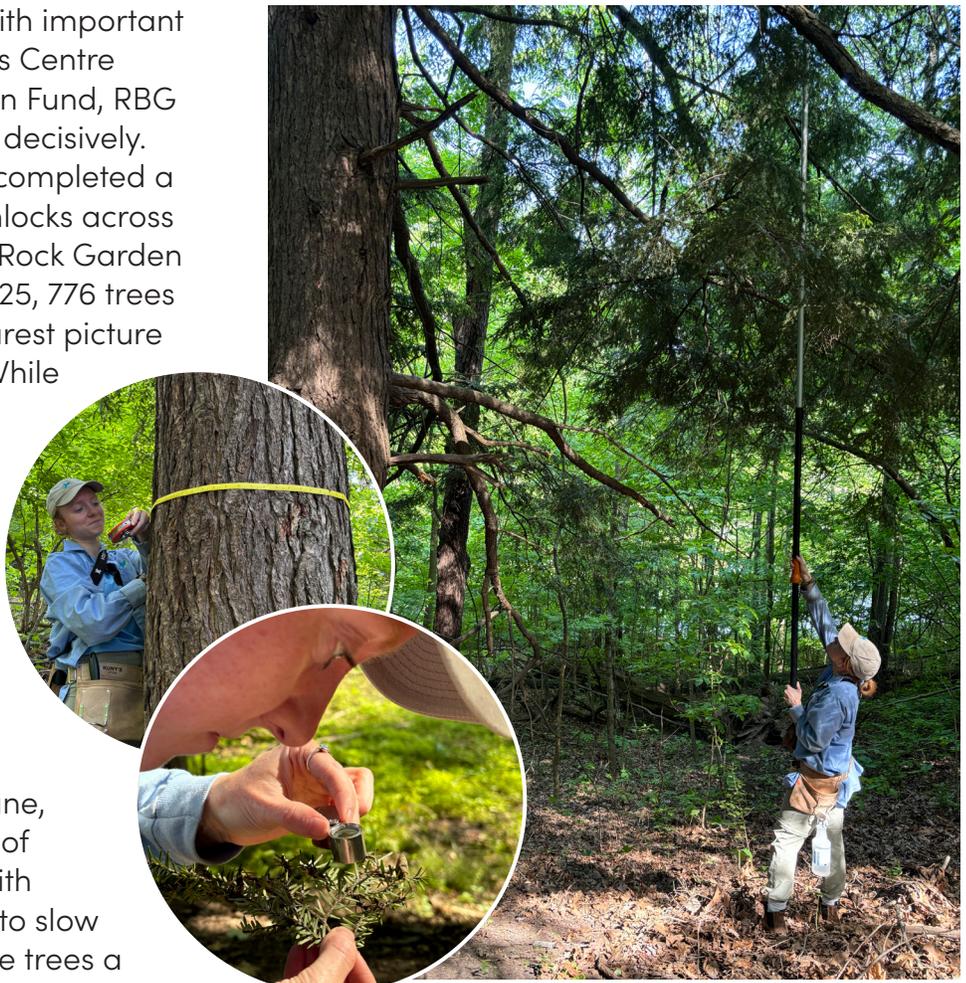
East,” these giants can live for centuries, holding immense stores of carbon, cooling forest canopies, and creating micro-habitats that sustain both land and water life. Yet they now face a deadly threat: Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA), an invasive insect that can kill mature trees within just a few years.

Thanks to your generosity, and with important support from the Invasive Species Centre through its Invasive Species Action Fund, RBG has been able to act quickly and decisively. RBG’s terrestrial ecologists have completed a full inventory of nearly 1,500 Hemlocks across Hendrie Valley, Rock Chapel, the Rock Garden slope and Cootes Paradise. In 2025, 776 trees were surveyed, giving us the clearest picture yet of where HWA is spreading. While Hendrie Valley and Rock Chapel remain free of the pest, new infestations were confirmed along Rock Garden’s slope and the North Shore of Cootes Paradise. Some trees already show signs of stress, which is a stark reminder of the urgency of this work.

Action has already begun. This June, 48 Hemlocks on the South Shore of Cootes Paradise were injected with TreeAzin®, a treatment designed to slow the spread of HWA and give these trees a

fighting chance. Each tree was mapped and tagged so their health can be carefully monitored over time. More treatments are scheduled for October, with your support helping ensure even more Hemlocks are protected before another season passes.

Thanks to your support and through strong partnerships like the one with the Invasive Species Centre, we are giving our Hemlocks a future. Together, we are safeguarding forests that will stand tall for generations.



Autumn Blooms at RBG

As the seasons shift, Royal Botanical Gardens offers a spectacular display of colour and texture. October brings fiery foliage, fantastic fruits, and late-season blooms — Japanese maples, blazing goldenrods, asters, and roses still brightening the gardens alongside bountiful harvest displays of pumpkins and gourds.

By November, the finale of fall unfolds. Oaks hold their brilliant reds and oranges, while witch-hazel and winterberry add unexpected bursts of colour. The Rock Garden glows with maples and fall blooming perennials, and indoors, the Mediterranean Garden bursts with vibrant tropicals and citrus blossoms — an uplifting escape from the chill.

Whether you wander through Hendrie Park, the Arboretum, Rock Garden or our nature sanctuaries, autumn at RBG is alive with beauty at every turn. Bundle up, grab a warm drink and come experience the magic of the season!

Share Your Story

We'd love to hear how Royal Botanical Gardens has inspired you, touched your life or nurtured your love of nature. Your stories bring our gardens to life and show the impact of your generosity. Share your memories or hopes at rbg.ca/shareyourstory.



Fireside Warmth & Cozy Indulgence

Inspired by RBG's award-winning Parsnapple Soup, this warming recipe celebrates the natural sweetness of roasted parsnips and apples, enhanced with a hint of warming spices and enriched with cream.

Roasted Parsnip & Apple Soup

A cozy, slightly sweet, and aromatic soup perfect for chilly winter days.

Ingredients (Serves 4-6)

- 1 lb parsnips, peeled and chopped
- 1 large apple (Honeycrisp or Granny Smith), peeled and chopped
- 1 small onion, diced
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- ½ tsp ground nutmeg
- ½ tsp ground cinnamon
- ½ tsp salt (plus more to taste)
- 4 cups vegetable or chicken broth
- ½ cup heavy cream (or coconut milk for a dairy-free version)
- Optional garnish: toasted walnuts, fresh thyme, or a drizzle of honey

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 400 °F (200 °C). Toss parsnips and apple with olive oil, nutmeg, cinnamon and salt. Spread on a baking sheet and roast for 25–30 minutes, until caramelized and tender.
2. In a large pot, sauté the onion over medium heat until soft and translucent.
3. Add the roasted parsnips and apple to the pot along with the broth. Simmer for 5 minutes, then blend until smooth using an immersion blender (or in batches with a regular blender).
4. Stir in the cream and adjust seasoning as needed. Serve warm, garnished with toasted walnuts or fresh thyme.

Warm up this Fall with daily seasonal soups at our Greenhouse Café, plus irresistible hot, cheesy personal pizzas fresh from our brand-new oven.



A New Home for the Irises

Bloodroot, Karl Unnasch, installed 2016

Thanks to donors' generosity during our Spring 2025 appeal, an important chapter in Royal Botanical Gardens' horticultural story is unfolding. This year, the beloved Iris Collection is being prepared for its move from Laking Garden to a newly reimagined space in Hendrie Park, once known as the Global Garden.

Your gift is making this transformation possible. Over the past few months, tremendous progress has been made to ready the garden for its new role as home to these treasured plants. The deconstruction of the former Global Garden is complete, along with grading and groundwork. In fact, during grading, we uncovered a fascinating piece of history. Remnants of the garden's original 1990s layout hidden beneath the soil. Inspired by archival aerial photos, we chose to restore the design, blending the past with our vision for the future.

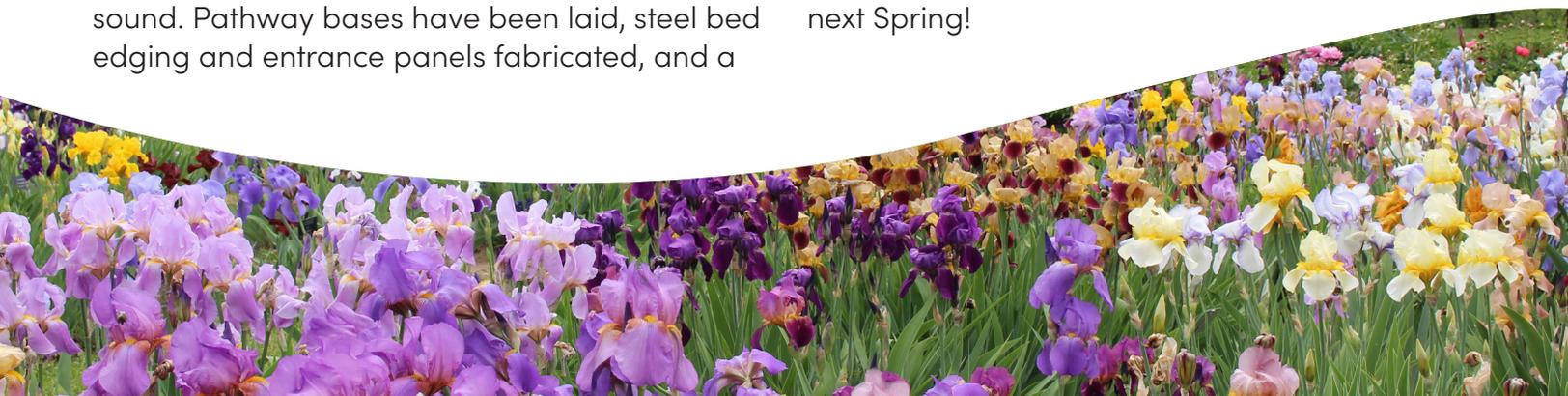
Essential infrastructure is now in place, including underground utilities for lighting, irrigation and sound. Pathway bases have been laid, steel bed edging and entrance panels fabricated, and a

new addition to the Dan Lawrie Sculpture Collection installed, all setting the stage for a vibrant and welcoming space. Meanwhile, the Iris Collection itself has been carefully nurtured. With a nutrition program, divisions, labeling and prioritization complete, the irises are now ready for transplanting.

This project is more than a relocation; it's about safeguarding one of Canada's most significant perennial collections, ensuring future generations can experience the breathtaking beauty and cultural importance of these flowers.

Thanks to donor support, Hendrie Park is being renewed as a showcase of horticultural excellence, artistry and conservation. Every bloom that emerges here will stand as a living testament to your generosity.

Thank you for shaping the gardens of tomorrow. We look forward to sharing this newly reimagined garden with you next Spring!



Fall Garden Prep: Top 5 Tips

As the air turns crisp and leaves begin to fall, now is the perfect time to prepare your garden for the winter months ahead. A little care in the fall will set the stage for a healthier, more vibrant garden come spring. Here are our top five tips to get your garden ready:



1. Clean up & clear out. Remove dead or diseased perennial plants (don't compost these!) And add healthy clippings to your compost pile. Remove annuals after frost and clear out vegetable garden debris.



2. Amend soil. Spread 4–6 cm of decomposed organic matter (compost, leaves, wood chips) to add soil nutrients, insulate roots and alleviate cool season weed germination.



3. Plant spring bulbs & perennials.

As the soil begins to cool, plants are putting on root growth. Now's the perfect time to plant tulips, daffodils, garlic and herbaceous perennials and to divide and transplant perennials.



4. Harvest seeds.

Select fruits from the vigorous plants in your vegetable garden, cutting garden and your perennials. Remove seeds from fruits, dry and find cool dark storage for the winter.



5. Support wildlife.

Use your garden to support the ecosystem! Leaf piles, seed heads, hollow stems and brush piles provide shelter and food for insects and birds.

Bonus

Clean, sharpen and store your garden tools for an easier spring!

Upcoming Events

Enjoy these unforgettable seasonal events!

Celebrate the Magic of the Season: Winter Wonders November 27, 2025–January 4, 2026 (Thursdays–Sundays)

Experience the magic of the season at RBG's Winter Wonders! Hendrie Park transforms into a winter wonderland with dazzling lights, festive installations and enchanting displays for the whole family to enjoy.



BLOOMLAND IN OZ

2026 Floral Showcase: Bloomland in Oz January 31– April 6, 2026

Follow the road to "Bloomland in Oz," where imagination blossoms into a spectacular adventure inspired by The Wonderful Wizard of Oz. Step into the land of Oz with captivating botanical displays, artistic creations and thousands of real blooms that brighten the winter months.

For more information and tickets, please visit rbg.ca/things-to-do



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