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Botanischer Garten

The Botanical Garden

garden
plan

botanischergarten.univie.ac.at/en

The Botanical Garden

Approximately 11,500 plant species from six continents can be found in the Botanical Garden of the University of Vienna. The diverse complex includes an English landscape garden with plants from various lineages, a collection of woody species, a Pannonian steppe landscape, greenhouses and many other attractions.

Research

The collection of living plants is of international importance. The research and special collections of bromeliads, orchids, coffee plants, cacti and other succulents are of particular significance. Many of these plants are used in research projects and courses at the University of Vienna.



Bromeliad (*Aechmea pedicellata*)

Conservation

An important responsibility of the Botanical Garden is the protection and conservation of endangered plant species. Their survival is ensured through their cultivation in the Garden and the conservation of natural habitats. In addition, habitats that are true to nature are created in the Garden, such as the meadows in the “Systematic group” or the grass and sandy areas in the “Flora of Austria” group. Here, rare species can grow, blossom and bear fruits.

Green oasis

With its old trees and the natural meadows, the Botanical Garden is an important natural habitat for animals. Among others, the Garden is home to 130 different species of wild bees and 64 bird species. The Garden is a green oasis in the heart of the city for visitors as well.

Cover photo: The path network of the “Systematic group” winds its way organically across the cover of this booklet and other print materials of the Garden. Seen from above, it resembles plant cells or leaf veins. Its shape symbolises the responsibility of the Botanical Garden to make science and nature visible.

Quartier Belvedere 50m



City train, regional trains



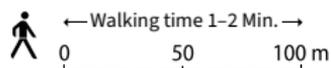
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Legend

- Entrances
- Broad-leaved trees
- Flora of Austria
- Conifers
- Bamboo grove
- Systematic groups
- Useful plants
- Cold greenhouse and Canary Islands groups
- Flower biology, fruit biology and morphology
- Alpine plants
- Cacti and other succulents
- Tropical house, Victoria basin and display vitrines
- Cold greenhouse, exhibitions in summer
- Water basins and pools
- Glasshouses
- Service buildings
- Additional spare areas, service and storage areas
- The 'Grüne Schule' (green school)
- Jacquin ginkgo
- Mozart plane tree

1-55 groups



Dedicated to botany since 1754

The Botanical Garden of the University of Vienna was founded in 1754 by the Empress Maria Theresa, on the suggestion of her personal physician Gérard van Swieten.

The beginnings

During the time of Robert Laugier (1722-1793), the first director of the Garden, the Garden was used as a place for studying especially for students of medicine and pharmacy. Nikolaus Joseph von Jacquin (1727-1817), the second director and a passionate botanist, had the first greenhouses built, expanded the outdoor collections and organised the plants according to the Linnaean system, which was standard at the time.

Expansion and reorganisation

Under his son and successor Joseph Franz von Jacquin (1766-1839), the Baroque garden was expanded significantly. Director Stefan Endlicher (1804-1849) developed a “natural system” of plants, based on their origin, even before Darwin’s theory of evolution. His ideas were implemented after his death by director Eduard Fenzl (1808-1879). They are still noticeable today in the Systematic groups, which are laid out in the style of an English landscape garden.



From 1878 until today,

Anton Kerner von Marilaun, Richard von Wettstein, Fritz Knoll and Lothar Geitler strengthened the reputation of the Garden as a significant scientific institution. Around 1971, Friedrich Ehrendorfer opened the Host'sche Garten to the public, where the “Flora of Austria” group can now be found.

Under Michael Hesse, the greenhouses were renovated. In 1997, Tod Stuessy became director. Since 2006, Michael Kiehn is the director of the Garden.

Zinnia elegans: The popular common zinnia was first described by director Nikolaus Joseph von Jacquin. It is still cultivated in the garden today.

The Botanical Garden of the University of Vienna

Main entrance: Mechelgasse 2, 1030 Wien.

Opening hours:

January, November & December: 10:00-16:00

February, March & October: 10:00-17:00

April - September: 10:00-18:00

Further information can be found on the announcements in the Garden or on the website: botanischergarten.univie.ac.at/en/

There is no entrance fee.

In the case of strong wind or other extreme weather events, the Garden will be closed for safety reasons.

Events, guided tours and workshops

The Botanical Garden has attractive offers for groups and visitors of all ages. Our guided tours provide an insight into the fascinating world of plants. Highlights include the rare orchids of Madagascar, a two-hundred-year-old ginkgo experiment and a bamboo grove. Book a private tour or join our weekly tours for English speakers on Friday and Saturday.

The 'Grüne Schule'

The 'Grüne Schule' (green school) of the Botanical Garden invites children to explore botany and science. On guided tours and workshops, kindergarten groups and school groups can discover the fascinating world of plants, explore the Garden and experiment.

Booking and further information:

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W grueneschule.univie.ac.at (in German)

Photos: Rudolf Hromniak, Archive HBV.