



PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate use

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Spring Plant Sale and Festival Celebrates Native Plants and Community

Chapel Hill, NC -- The North Carolina Botanical Garden will host its second annual Spring Plant Sale and Festival Saturday, April 29, 3 - 7 p.m. Festival-goers will be able to purchase plants native to the southeastern United States and grown at the Garden's own nursery, as well as plants from several other local nurseries. In addition, attendees will enjoy live music, food trucks, kids' activities, and the display gardens bursting with spring blooms. Admission is free, and all are invited.

By bringing together a number of native plant vendors, including Niche Gardens, Cure Nursery, Mellow Marsh Farm, and Growing Wild Nursery, the North Carolina Botanical Garden hopes to encourage the cultivation of native plants for home landscapes. Many common invasive species in North Carolina, like Chinese wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*) and Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) were originally introduced as ornamental garden plants. Using native plants in a garden not only denies invasive plants an opportunity to spread, it also provides a welcome habitat for native birds and pollinators.

In addition to native plants, there will also be a book sale featuring texts on gardening and botany, and local conservation non-profit organizations will be present to talk about their work.

For kids of all ages, there will be face painting, henna tattooing, bubbles, and even a special appearance by UNC's Ramses.

Maple View Ice Cream, Will and Pop's, and Crêpes Véronique food trucks will offer food for purchase, and a live band will provide music.

For more information about the Plant Sale and Festival, visit ncbg.unc.edu/native-plant-sale.

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The North Carolina Botanical Garden, part of the University of North Carolina, is a 1,000-acre assemblage of display gardens and natural areas. The Garden celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2016 and is nationally known as a center for the study, display, interpretation and conservation of plants. Through its educational, recreational, therapeutic horticulture and research programs, it extends opportunities for connection with nature to people of all abilities and backgrounds. The Garden is open Tuesday through Sunday and admission is free. Information at ncbg.unc.edu.



The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the nation's first public university, is a global higher education leader known for innovative teaching, research and public service. A member of the prestigious Association of American Universities, Carolina regularly ranks as the best value for academic quality in U.S. public higher education. Now in its third century, the University offers 77 bachelor's, 113 master's, 68 doctorate and seven professional degree programs through 14 schools and the College of Arts and Sciences. Every day, faculty – including two Nobel laureates – staff and students shape their teaching, research and public service to meet North Carolina's most pressing needs in every region and all 100 counties. Carolina's more than 308,000 alumni live in all 50 states and 150 countries. More than 167,000 live in North Carolina.