

For Immediate Release



MEXICO

— A CELEBRATION OF —

PLANTS &

CULTURE

**Naples Botanical Garden Announces its 2022 – 2023 Season  
Mexico: A Celebration of Plants & Culture**

**NAPLES, FL – September 15, 2022** – Naples Botanical Garden announces its most ambitious programming to date, a yearlong exploration of Mexico’s plants and their cultural connections. The season features major art exhibitions — including a botanical homage to artist Frida Kahlo — new festivals, and the return of annual favorites, such as Johnsonville Night Lights in the Garden.

Plants offer a window into culture, lifestyle, faith, and tradition, as well as an opportunity to consider connections between communities. Southwest Florida and portions of Mexico share a tropical wet forest ecosystem and many overlapping plant species. Mexico is the birthplace of crops essential to cuisines around the world,

including corn, beans, and tomatoes. It harbors 10 percent of the world's flora, making it one of the most biodiverse places on Earth and underscoring Naples Botanical Garden's commitment to plant conservation throughout South Florida, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

[More on the Garden's Events & Exhibitions](#)

---

## Mexico: A Celebration of Plants & Culture

### ***La Calavera Catrina***

**Oct. 1, 2022 – Jan. 29, 2023**

*La Calavera Catrina* features eight towering sculptures of *La Catrina*, one of the most recognizable figures of *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead). An elegant female skeleton and an icon of Mexican heritage, *La Catrina* approaches death not through sadness, but as a colorful celebration of life. Designed by Los Angeles-based artist Ricardo Soltero, these 8-foot-tall, brightly adorned sculptures will add an element of surprise to your Garden stroll. *La Calavera Catrina* is organized by Denver Botanic Gardens.

### **Día de los Muertos Celebration**

**Nov. 5 & 6, 2022**

Join us in the Garden for a joyous *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead) Celebration. With origins in Mexico, this colorful holiday is a time to share memories of loved ones, and celebrate our families and friends. Discover the holiday's significance and its rich culture through special displays, tours, and arts and crafts stations. Immerse yourself in live music, dance performances, and delicious dishes. Bring the whole family for an adventure in color, aroma, and flavor.

### ***Frida and Her Garden***

**Jan. 14 – Sept. 10, 2023**

Venture into the world of Frida Kahlo (1907 – 1954) as you explore a re-creation of *La Casa Azul*, the artist's iconic blue home in Coyoacán, Mexico City. A year in the

making, this exhibition is a garden within the Garden, teeming with plants that inspired her paintings, those that embellished her home, and those that reflect Mexico's rich heritage. Throughout the Garden, you'll also encounter monumental animal sculptures adorned with folk art representing important influences on Kahlo's life and work. Special thanks to Banco de México Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo Museums Trust.

### **Frida After 5**

Celebrate first Fridays with Frida! Bring your friends and family to meander through the *Frida and Her Garden* exhibition after hours, sip on themed cocktails, and enjoy festive music and dance on select nights. Included with Garden admission.

### ***Viva la Vida: Plants, Stories, and Cultural Heritage***

**April 7 – Sept. 4, 2023**

Through photography and storytelling, discover how more than 20 Southwest Florida women of Hispanic origin keep their traditions alive through plants. Artist Lisette Morales McCabe captures her subjects immersed in the plants that connect them to homeland and heritage.

**Supported by:**



---

## **2022 – 2023 Events & Festivals**

### **Music in the Garden**

**October 2022 – June 2023**

Area musicians grace the outdoor Performance Stage overlooking the Water Garden

the second Saturday of each month from October through June. Showtimes are 2 – 4 p.m. during the months of October – May and from 12 – 2 p.m. in June. Dates: Oct. 8, Nov. 12, Dec. 10, Jan. 14, Feb. 11, March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10.

### **Johnsonville Night Lights in the Garden**

**Nov. 25 – Dec. 23, 2022; Dec. 26 – Dec. 30, 2022; and Jan. 1, 2023**

Thousands of lights transform the Garden into a unique winter wonderland in this ever-changing annual display. See plants of the tropics and subtropics in an entirely new way, enjoy musical performances, and savor special fare from the Garden's Fogg Café.

### **Sunset Wednesdays**

**Wednesdays in Feb., March, and April 2023, 5 – 8 p.m.; Wednesdays in May, 5 – 8:30 p.m.**

Nothing beats winter in Florida. Celebrate midweek, as the Garden stays open late for guests to delight in the magic of a Naples sunset overlooking the Preserve and curated collections from throughout the tropical world.

### **Annual Ikebana Exhibition**

**Feb. 10 – 12, 2023**

Ikebana, the centuries-old meditative art of flower arrangement, is rooted in traditional philosophy and ancient Japanese folklore. Its modern interpretation enhances our living spaces with a personal touch of nature. This exhibit, hosted by Naples Ikebana International #160, features designs in the schools of Ikenobo, Sogetsu, Sensho Ikenobo, and Ohara.

### **Naples Orchid Society Show & Sale**

**Feb. 24 – 26, 2023**

Orchids abound at this annual show celebrating the allure of these beauties. The show features prize-winning orchids of many species and hybrids, artistic displays of orchids in full bloom, and container and cut arrangements. Vendors offer a large selection of plants and orchid care supplies.

## **Naples Flower Show & Garden Market**

**March 17 & 18, 2023**

The Naples Flower Show, an annual partnership between the Garden and Naples Garden Club, has blossomed into the largest juried flower show in Florida, giving guests the opportunity to enjoy spectacular floral designs, botanical arts, tropical plants, educational displays, and interactive demonstrations. This year's show is titled *Just Imagine*.

## **Blooms & Brews**

**April 15, 2023, 6 – 10 p.m.**

Raise a glass to the plants that make beer happen! Savor the sunset, experience the Garden by night, enjoy bites available for purchase from Fogg Café, and sample craft beers from an assortment of microbreweries. Tickets include beer samples and a commemorative Blooms & Brews glass.

## **Family Wonder Days**

**May 27 & 28, 2023**

Garden-wide adventures await with a weekend of wonderful games, activities, and scavenger hunts for the whole family! Grab an activity guide, and journey through the lush landscape to observe the birds, pollinators, and plants that make the Garden special. Local performers add to the fun with family-friendly music throughout the weekend.

## **Tasting the Tropics**

**July 1, 2023**

Enjoy the Garden's most fruitful season with this tasty festival! Sample tropical fruits from around the world and discover some lesser-known fruiting plants grown in the Garden. Have you ever wondered how to open a coconut or jackfruit? Or wanted to know how to grow a pineapple? Learn the answers to these questions and more during our hands-on demonstrations, lively talks, and tours.

## Waterlily Weekend

Sept. 2 & 3, 2023

The Garden abounds with more than 500 waterlily specimens on display throughout 1.5 acres worth of ponds and pools. This two-day festival celebrates these floating botanical gems with special tours, demonstrations, family activities, and curator talks.

---



Sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

---

For media questions, please contact [media@naplesgarden.org](mailto:media@naplesgarden.org).

---

### About Naples Botanical Garden

Naples Botanical Garden is where plants and people thrive together. In addition to our 170-acre showcase for tropical plants, the Garden offers a uniquely beautiful, natural, and ever-changing experience to bring our diverse community together to enjoy companionship, refuge, learning, and celebration.

Summer hours of operation are 9 a.m.– 2 p.m., June 1 – Sept. 30. Members-only entry 8 – 9 a.m. daily. Seasonal hours of operation from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (8 a.m. early entry for Members) will resume Oct.1. Visit [naplesgarden.org](http://naplesgarden.org) for details.

[Visit our Media Page](#)

