

Welcome to the National Botanic Gardens

Our mission is to explore, understand, conserve, and share the importance of plants. We aim to make the Gardens a place where leisure, recreation and education are all compatible for the enjoyment of our visitors. Covering 50 acres, over 17,000 different plants are grown here from a variety of habitats from snow-capped mountains to deserts to tropical forests. We grow over 300 endangered species from around the world, and 6 species that are already extinct in the wild. The arboretum, pond, river banks, cultivar collections, vegetable garden, glasshouses and wildlife provide interest for every visitor.

Education plays a key role at the National Botanic Gardens. Through our collections and activities we aim to increase public awareness of plants and their importance to people globally. Guided tours are available throughout the year, and are free on Sundays. Self-guided tours can be downloaded from our website, and a free app for all mobile phone platforms is also available. Training Ireland's future horticulturists is a further

vital role of the Gardens. We also run courses in gardening and botany for beginners, hold practical workshops and provide activities for children throughout the year – see our website for details.

The National Herbarium, based within the National Botanic Gardens, has a collection of nearly ¾ million dried plant specimens. We also have an active DNA research laboratory conducting cutting edge research. Staff at the Gardens are engaged in describing new species; increasing our knowledge of the Irish flora; investigating the needs of our most threatened native plants; and conducting collecting expeditions.

We welcome all visitors to the garden, however, it should be remembered that the primary role of the Gardens is as a scientific collection and therefore we do not allow dogs, picnics, bicycles, fishing, ball games, jogging or running, nor the playing of musical instruments or recorded music. Entry is free and we are open every day of the year except Christmas Day.

Opening Hours

Winter (November to March)

Mon. – Fri. 9 am - 4:30 pm

Sat/Sun/Public holidays 10am – 4:30pm

Summer (April to October)

Mon. – Fri. 9 am – 5 pm

Sat/Sun/Public holidays 10am – 6 pm

Guided Tours (free on Sundays)

Sundays at 12 and 2:30pm all year round.

Monday to Saturday 11.30am and 3pm,

April – October €2 per person.

Pre-booked groups by arrangement.

The Glasshouses close 15 minutes before closing-time.

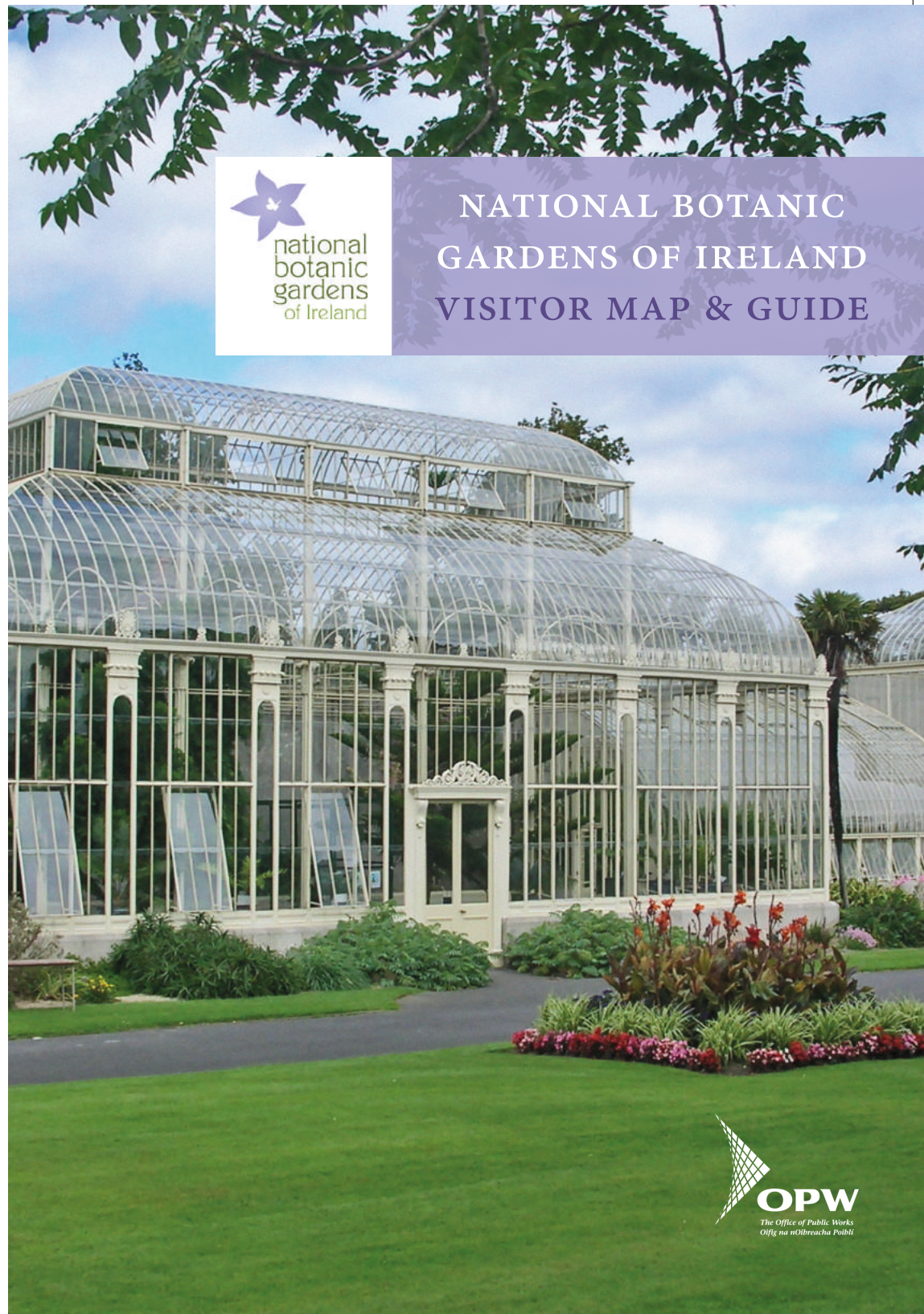


Tel. 01 8570909

Website: www.botanicgardens.ie



NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS OF IRELAND VISITOR MAP & GUIDE



1 Fruit & Vegetable Garden

The vegetable garden demonstrates organic growing techniques, composting and honey production. There is an extensive collection of Irish apple cultivars from across the country.

2 ?What Is Life?

This sculpture, designed by Charles Jencks, celebrates the 60th anniversary of the discovery of the DNA double helix in 1953. It is a gift to the nation from private donors. It demonstrates our growing knowledge of RNA. It is only recently that we have discovered that all life on earth, from microbes to plants and animals are all related to one another.

3 Curvilinear Range

The gardens are famed for their superb wrought iron glasshouses designed by the celebrated Dublin iron-master Richard Turner. Built originally in 1849, this cast and wrought iron glasshouse was fully restored in the 1990s by the Office of Public Works and is the recipient of a Europa Nostra award for excellence in conservation architecture.

7 Wild Ireland

The display of native habitats and plants showcases Ireland's botanical diversity.

6 The Glasnevin Gateway

Glasnevin (Prospect) Cemetery and Museum can now be reached through the new linking gate. Above the trees to the west of the Garden can be seen the highest round tower in Ireland, built to commemorate Daniel O'Connell, the 'Great Liberator', one of many notable people buried here.

5 Education Garden

The garden was built to commemorate 25 years of the Erasmus Programme. The scheme gives university students the opportunity to continue their studies in another European country. Featuring plants from across Europe, as well as providing an outdoor classroom and opportunities for people of all ages to get hands-on experience with horticulture and botany. A generous grant from the Higher Education Authority enabled the construction of this garden.

4 The Great Palm House

Recently restored, the Palm House was originally erected in 1884, and at 20m in height, is the tallest building in the gardens. It contains a diverse collection of tropical plants from around the world, including rare cycads, tropical palms, giant bamboo, bananas and bromeliads.

