

# PLANT-O-RAMA 2026



METRO HORT

A symposium, trade show, and career fair  
for horticultural professionals



PROGRAM INFORMATION

[metrohort.org](https://metrohort.org)

Presented by



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# About Metro Hort

Metro Hort Group is a community of horticulture and landscape professionals across the NYC metropolitan region and the organizers of Plant-O-Rama. 2026 marks the 40 Anniversary of Metro Hort Group. Meeting informally over drinks, young professionals in New York City horticulture recognized a need for a network of professionals in urban horticulture, and the Metro Hort Group was born.



Today we connect practitioners across the public and private sectors to cultivate plants, people, and places through education, employment, advocacy, and collaboration. By uplifting the people who steward our shared environment, we contribute to a more resilient, equitable, and livable city.

At Metro Hort Group, our values reflect a shared commitment to excellence in horticulture and to cultivating a professional community that is future-facing, inclusive, and deeply interconnected. We believe in innovation and lifelong learning, in the power of equitable relationships, and in stewarding both our landscapes and our profession with integrity and care.

If you enjoyed today's program please consider becoming a member to gain access to monthly speaker sessions, tours, workshops, and more. We offer tiered membership and are more accessible than ever with digital offerings.

Let's grow together.



[Join Metro Hort Group](#)



# About Brooklyn Botanic Garden



This event would not be possible without the support of Brooklyn Botanic Garden, an urban botanic garden that connects people to the world of plants, fostering delight and curiosity while inspiring an appreciation and sense of stewardship of the environment.

In the Garden, in its community, and well beyond, Brooklyn Botanic Garden inspires people of all ages through the conservation, display, and enjoyment of plants; with educational programs that emphasize learning by doing; and with research focused on understanding and conserving regional plants and plant communities.

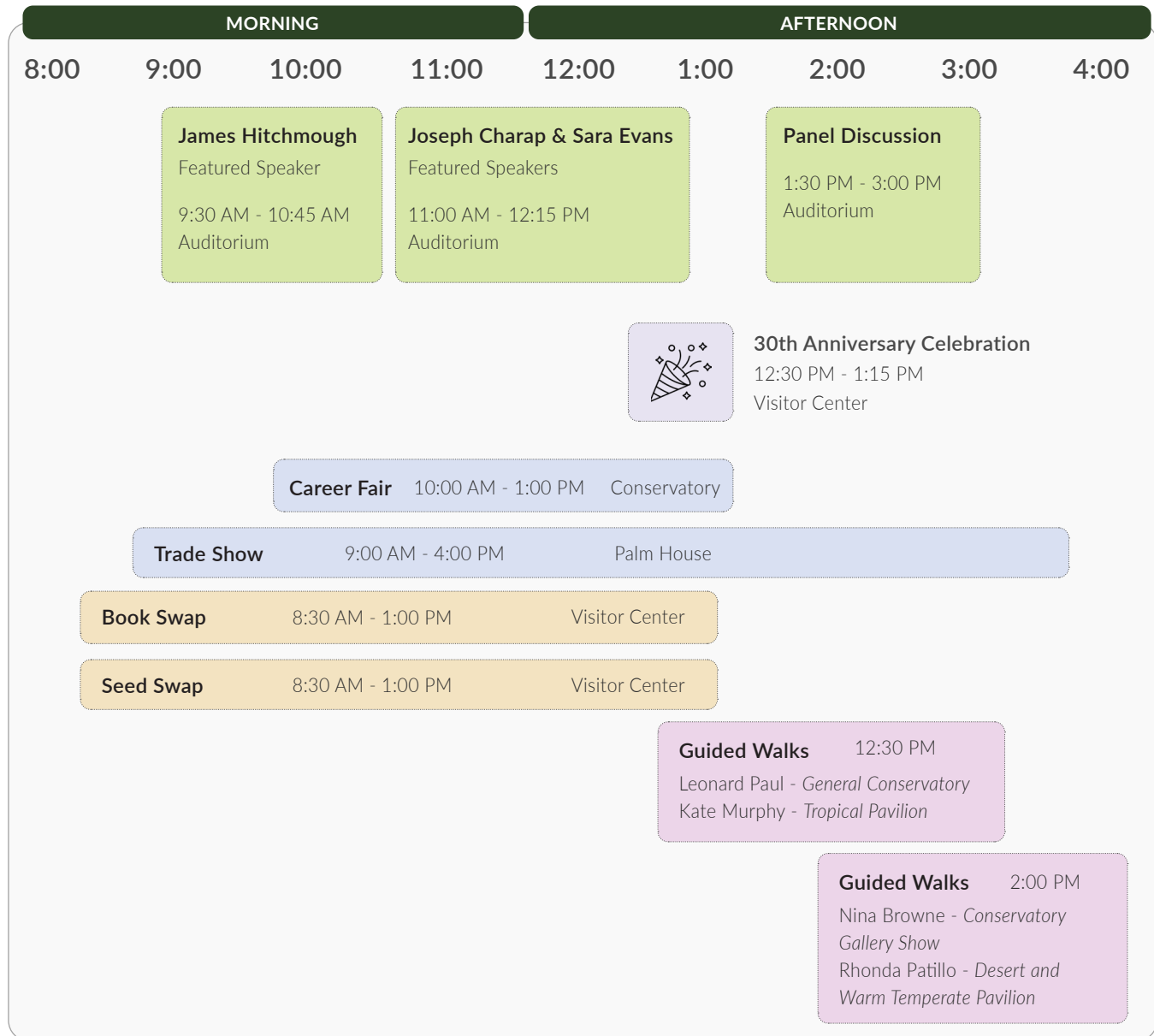
Consider becoming a Brooklyn Botanic Garden Member and enjoy benefits such as members only events, admission, news, discounts, and more.

[Join Brooklyn Botanic Garden](#)

# Plant-O-Rama Activities

Ticket Required

Food &amp; Beverage



## Coffee Bar

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
 Visitor Center

Grab a coffee, salad, or sandwich!

## Yellow Magnolia Café

10:30 AM - 3:00 PM

The Yellow Magnolia Café will be open to purchase salads, sandwiches, snacks, and beverages.

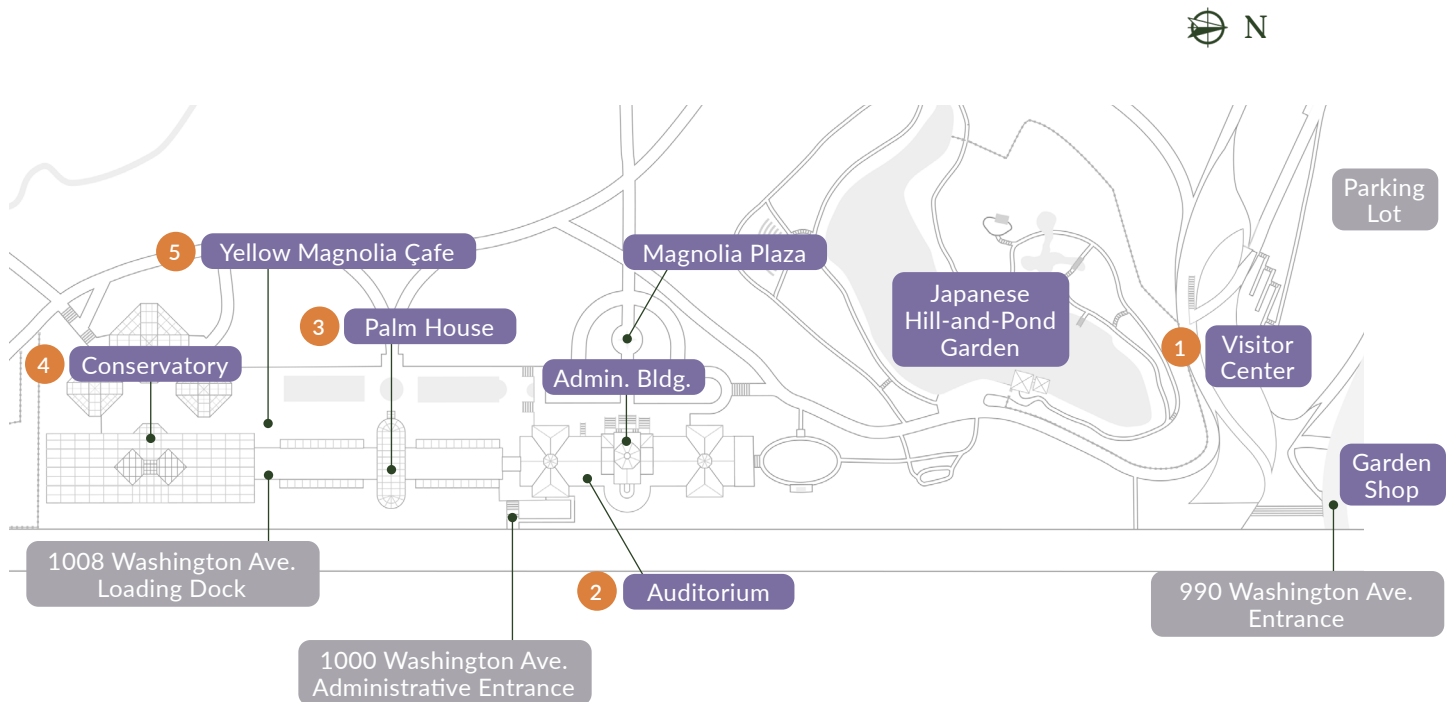
## Happy Hour

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
 Palm House

Clink clink! First drink is free, courtesy of Proven Winners!

# Getting Around

## BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN



### 1 Visitor Center

- Speaker ticket check-in
- Coffee Bar
- Seed Swap
- Book Swap
- Metro Hort 30th Anniversary Celebration
- Professional Grant Award

### 2 Auditorium

- Speaker programs (lower level)
- Limited speaker program ticket sales for "no-shows" (if available)

### 3 Palm House

- Trade Show
- Happy Hour

### 4 Conservatory

- Career Fair (lower level)
- Meeting location for the **Desert and Warm Temperate Pavilion guided walk** (meet at the Conservatory entrance)
- Meeting location for the **General Conservatory guided walk** (meet at the Conservatory entrance)
- Meeting location for the **Conservatory Gallery Show guided walk** (meet in the lower level)
- Meeting location for the **Tropical Pavilion guided walk** (meet in the lower level)

### 5 Yellow Magnolia Çafe

- Food and beverage

# Speaker Program



## Evaluating the Complexity and Diversity of Designed Herbaceous Plantings

🕒 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

doors open at 9:15 AM

📍 Auditorium

🗣️ Featured Speaker: **James Hitchmough**

*Horticulturalist, Author, and Emeritus Professor of Horticultural Ecology at the University of Sheffield*

Over the past 30 years there has been much progress in imagining and creating plantings that are spatially, temporally, and taxonomically complex; and in some parts of the world these plantings have become the zeitgeist. Though exemplary for supporting biodiversity and delivering high levels of aesthetic appeal, they can also be more demanding to design, implement, and successfully manage into perpetuity. James will explore where we are with these planting genres and how we can maximize the benefits and minimize the potential negatives.

## James Hitchmough

James's first job post his PhD was a lectureship in Environmental Horticulture at Burnley College, University of Melbourne, where he worked for 10 years and commenced his research into nature-like plant communities as an urban form. In 1995 he was appointed Associate Professor in the Department of Landscape, University of Sheffield, Professor in Horticultural Ecology in 2004, and Head of Department 2014-18. He retired in September 2022.



In parallel with his academic career, James worked as a consultant on landscape projects around the world, often using these to translate his research into practice and policy. With Nigel Dunnett he was lead planting designer at the London Olympic Park (2007-14), following the publication of the first edition of *The Dynamic Landscape* (2004) a seminal text on the application of nature-like planting to the urban realm.

After 2010 he focused on projects in China, often in collaboration with Chinese Government agencies to advance the use of local native species in large scale nature-like design projects, involving more than 50 visits/expeditions. James designed the first native woodland garden in China at Lotus Lake, Beijing, the acclaimed "New Silk Road Garden" at the Beijing International Expo, and very recently the planting of the Monet Garden in Chengdu.

James has used his extensive travelling to explore many of the temperate-Mediterranean world's wild vegetation, as inspiration and ecological insight-understanding. Post his retirement James has been engaged in major design and management projects in the UK and internationally, for example the Melbourne Arts Precinct Project. He continues to speak and write on landscape and horticultural issues (the completely new version of the *Dynamic Landscape* has just been published), and was recently appointed to the Council of the RHS. When not working for others, he continues to develop a 2.5 acre garden and woodpasture-native meadow in rural Somerset.



# Speaker Program



## The Graveyard Shift: Choosing Curiosity Over Control

🕒 11:00 AM - 12:15 pm doors open at 10:45 AM

📍 Auditorium

🗣️ Featured Speakers: **Joseph Charap** and **Sara Evans**,  
*The Green-Wood Cemetery*

For generations, Green-Wood maintained the lawn-dominated landscape most Americans recognize - neat, controlled, unchanging. But it came at a cost. This presentation examines how Green-Wood has begun choosing curiosity over control: disentangling our historic character from harmful 20th-century landscape practices. Through memorial meadows, reforestation, and reconsidering invasive plant management, we're discovering that honoring the dead means protecting the living world they left behind.

## Joseph Charap

Joseph Charap is the Vice President of Horticulture at Green-Wood in Brooklyn, NY, where he leads the care and strategic development of its historic 478-acre landscape. Overseeing all landscape operations—including arboriculture, meadow and turf management, monument restoration, and historic preservation—he integrates climate-adaptive strategies to enhance biodiversity and sustain Green-Wood's living collection. Since joining Green-Wood in 2014, Charap has advanced resiliency initiatives, elevated the site's profile as an arboretum, and positioned it as a leader in urban green space management.



## Sara Evans

Born and raised in Maryland, Sara Evans developed a deep sense of environmental stewardship and community responsibility through her involvement in Chesapeake Bay, Patuxent River, and Potomac River conservation projects with her church and school volunteer groups. She completed her undergrad degree at Brooklyn College where she earned a BA in Urban Sustainability with concentration in environmental science and sociology. As the director of living collections and curator at Green-Wood, Sara's passion for understanding intricate connections between nature, people, and their interactions comes to life. She manages the plant records of Green-Wood's arboretum, supervises environmental research initiatives, curates the living collections, and oversees the operations of the horticulture department.



# Speaker Program



## Gardens: Nurturing Plants, Communities, and People

🕒 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM doors open at 1:15 PM

📍 Auditorium

Panel Discussion

🗣️ **Moderator:** Andrew Sliwa, *Vice President of Horticulture, Southern Land Company*

🗣️ **Panelists:** Andrea Parker, *Gowanus Canal Conservancy*, Jennifer Beaugrand, *The Bronx is Blooming*, Lisa Bloodgood, *North Brooklyn Parks Alliance*, and Tonya Gayle, *Green City Force*

How can we ensure that urban green spaces remain community focused, accessible to all, and provide pathways to meaningful employment in the green industry? These challenges are daunting, but New York City nonprofits are tackling the issue and developing strategies for success. Join us for a lively conversation where our panelists will reflect on the challenges and successes they have had in cultivating community, the environment, and the next generation of horticultural professionals.

## Andrea Parker

Andrea Parker serves as the Executive Director of Gowanus Canal Conservancy (GCC), a community based non-profit that advocates for and stewards ecologically sustainable parks and public spaces in the Gowanus lowlands, by engaging those who live, work and play here.

Since 2006, GCC has served as the lead environmental steward for the neighborhood through leading volunteer projects, educating students on environmental issues, and working with agencies, elected officials, and the community to advocate for, build, and maintain innovative green infrastructure around the Gowanus Canal. Parker received her undergraduate degree at the University of Chicago and her Masters in Landscape Architecture from the University of Virginia. Currently, Parker lectures at the City College of New York's Bernard & Anne Spitzer School of Architecture.

## Jennifer Beaugrand

Jennifer Beaugrand is the founder and Executive Director of The Bronx is Blooming, a nonprofit organization dedicated to growing and supporting a culture of environmental stewardship in The Bronx since 2011. A native New Yorker, Bronx resident, and certified landscape designer and horticulturist, Jenn is passionate about the intersection of plants, people, and community. Inspired by the Bronx communities she worked alongside, Jenn founded The Bronx is Blooming as an avenue for residents—especially young people—to revitalize parks, build leadership skills, and pursue green careers. What began as small, community-driven planting projects has grown into a borough-wide initiative that brings people together to restore local ecosystems.

Under Jenn's leadership, The Bronx is Blooming has engaged over 26,000 volunteers, revitalized more than 20 parks and green spaces, and provided green jobs and leadership training to more than 675 Bronx youth. Together, staff, students, and volunteers have planted more than 26,000 native plants—including over 1,000 trees—and stewarded tens of thousands more. Beyond her work with The Bronx is Blooming, Jenn collaborates with The Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College to expand access to native species and serves on the board of the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality, advancing efforts to ensure a healthier, more resilient Bronx.



## Lisa Bloodgood

Lisa Bloodgood is an urban ecologist, educator, and an advocate for advancing community-centered horticulture and ecological resilience across New York City. As Director of Horticulture & Stewardship at North Brooklyn Parks Alliance, she leads ecological gardening teams at Under the K Bridge Park and throughout North Brooklyn. Lisa founded the Alliance's native plant nursery and horticultural fellowship programs, providing hands-on learning opportunities in native ecology for New Yorkers through seed collection and propagation, seasonal cycles in nursery practices, and small-scale research. Her work bridges ecological design and community engagement, resulting in diverse and biologically rich urban public spaces. She teaches Green Infrastructure and Nature-based design at Pratt Institute and urban sustainability at Brooklyn College, and her practice is rooted in reciprocity with the more-than-human world.

## Tonya Gayle

Tonya Gayle is Executive Director of Green City Force (GCF) and previously led its development team (2014–2020). She serves on the boards of The Corps Network and Environmental Advocates of NY, focusing on national service and environmental justice. A former NYCHA and SEO Career Program leader, Tonya has dedicated her career to economic justice for young people of color. A Wesleyan graduate, Circle of Sisters member, and Brooklyn native, she serves on environmental justice advisory boards and co-produced *The Perfect Life* (2006). Tonya is passionate about empowering young people to build a just, equitable world.

### Video Delivery

If you're interested in a video recording of both featured speakers and the panel discussion, conveniently delivered to your inbox, please visit [Eventbrite](#) to purchase. Video delivery will be ready by mid-February.

# Career Fair Exhibitors

🕒 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM    📍 Steinhardt Conservatory

Looking to take the next step in your career? These horticultural organizations, public gardens, parks, and design firms will have booths at the Career Fair.

- 1 **Brook Landscape** landscape designer based in Brooklyn, NY.
- 2 **Brooklyn Botanic Garden** An urban botanic garden that connects people to the world of plants, fostering delight and curiosity while inspiring an appreciation and sense of stewardship of the environment.
- 3 **Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation** The non-profit organization that plans, builds, maintains, and operates Brooklyn Bridge Park, an 85-acre sustainable waterfront park stretching 1.3 miles along Brooklyn's East River shoreline.
- 4 **Brooklyn Grange** promotes sustainable urban living by building green spaces, hosting educational programming and events, and widening access to locally grown produce in New York City communities.



## Career Fair Exhibitors *continued*

- 5 **Built to Last Hardscapes** Custom fence and patio service delivers excellent craftsmanship and lasting results. Get durable, stylish outdoor structures with our custom fence and patio.
- 6 **Cambridge** A Long Island City-based commercial services firm specialising in landscaping, holiday décor, and corporate floral design.
- 7 **Central Park Conservancy** Non-profit whose mission is to preserve and celebrate Central Park as a sanctuary from the pace and pressures of city life, enhancing the enjoyment and wellbeing of all.
- 8 **Chelsea Garden Center** Houseplants, perennials, annuals, garden supplies, and more.
- 9 **Domino Park Conservancy** A world class 6-acre park located along the Williamsburg waterfront in Brooklyn, NY.
- 10 **Field Form Inc.** A Brooklyn-based landscape design firm creating productive, sustainable, modernist landscapes through a holistic, systems-driven approach across private, public, and commercial spaces.



- 11 **Green Cross** Arborists who formulate and implement highly effective and environmentally conscientious custom tree and shrub care programs.
- 12 **Halsted Welles Associates** NYC Landscape Design-Build-Maintenance firm specializing in rooftops, terraces, and townhouse gardens.
- 13 **Highview Creations** Premier design-build-maintenance firm specializing in green roofs and rooftop gardens in the New York City area.



## Career Fair Exhibitors *continued*

- 14 **Hudson River Park Trust** Established in 1998 to design, build, operate, and maintain a new public park and estuarine sanctuary in and along several miles of the Manhattan shoreline.
- 15 **Little Island** A public park where all New Yorkers and visitors can experience nature and art in a unique urban oasis on the Hudson River.
- 16 **New York Botanical Garden** A museum of plants, a center for learning, and a plant science leader in the Bronx.
- 17 **New York Restoration Project** Works collaboratively with residents in communities across the five boroughs to renovate gardens, restore parks, plant trees, promote urban agriculture, and build partnerships that transform the city's landscape.
- 18 **The North Brooklyn Parks Alliance** A district-wide parks conservancy working to ensure an equitable and vibrant public realm in Greenpoint and Williamsburg.
- 19 **NYC Parks** Brooklyn





## Career Fair Exhibitors *continued*

- 20** **Our Temenos** A woman-owned and operated landscaping company, specializing in holistic design, native plant installation, and chemical free maintenance.
- 21** **Perfect Earth Project** Promoting nature-based, toxic-free land care practices for the health of people, their pets, and the planet.
- 22** **PLAN it WILD** An ecological landscaping and rewilding organization that helps transform lawns and outdoor spaces into native, wildlife-supporting habitats.
- 23** **Riverside Park Conservancy** Working to restore, maintain, and improve Riverside Park in partnership with the City of New York for the enjoyment and benefit of all New Yorkers.
- 24** **Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation** A New York State public-benefit corporation responsible for developing Roosevelt Island, a small island in the East River that is part of the New York City borough of Manhattan.
- 25** **Stonecrop Gardens** Stonecrop Gardens began as the private hillside garden of Anne and Frank Cabot and evolved into a public garden and horticultural study center dedicated to education and plant diversity.
- 28** **The Bronx is Blooming** A Bronx-based nonprofit dedicated to environmental stewardship, community building, and youth leadership development.
- 29** **The Trust for Governors Island** The non-profit organization created by the City of New York responsible for the planning, operations, and ongoing development of Governors Island.
- 26** **Town & Gardens, Ltd.** Designs innovative New York City landscapes, stylish and comfortable amenity spaces, and builds beautiful, site-appropriate gardens.
- 27** **Trillium Landscape Design** Transforming NYC and Hamptons spaces with innovative natural landscape design for gardens, terraces, and rooftops.
- 30** **Wave Hill** · Public garden in the northwest Bronx along the Hudson River, with flower gardens, alpine house, greenhouses, and a cultural center.
- 31** **Westchester County Parks / Hilltop Hanover Farm & Environmental Center**  
A county-run park and environmental education center that combines a working farm, public gardens, and hands-on sustainability programs for the community.

# Trade Show Exhibitors

🕒 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

📍 Palm House

See the latest products, plants and materials from local wholesale and retail suppliers! These nurseries, growers, tree care companies, and horticultural suppliers will have booths for you to explore.

W Wholesale

R Retail



1. A.D.R Bulbs Inc W Flower bulb growers and wholesalers.
2. American Wholesale Nurseries, Inc. W Wholesale plant nursery.
3. Arborpolitan R Garden care & arboriculture.
4. ASI W The best direct source of indoor and outdoor planters for architects, designers & interiorscapers in North America since the 1960s.
5. Atlantic Nurseries, Inc. W Distinctive plants and products for 50 years.
6. Bartlett Tree Experts R Tree care company providing professional tree service while helping homeowners and businesses maintain beautiful, healthy trees and shrubs.
7. Beds & Borders, Inc. W Offers a diverse variety of unusual annuals, artful combinations, and perennials.
8. Bissett Equipment W A SiteOne Company with over 30 years in the landscape Industry, we are leaders for equipment sales service and rental.
9. Capital Garden Products Ltd W Fiber glass garden planters, pots & water features.
10. Chief Mountain Farms W Specializing in native and wetland plants.

## Trade Show Exhibitors *continued*

W Wholesale  
R Retail

11. City Tree Guards W R New York City-based manufacturers of recycled HDPE tree guards.
12. Colorblends Wholesale Flowerbulbs W Distinctive wholesale bulbs & color mixes.
13. CowPots, LLC W Manufacture biodegradable pots and products on their family's farm using 100% renewable and recycled, composted cow manure.
14. Emma's Garden Growers Inc W Wide variety of annuals, perennials, container plants.
15. Glover Perennials W Specialty ground covers & perennials.
16. Henry Leuthardt Nurseries, Inc. R Espaliered and specialty fruit trees.
17. Hicks Commercial Sales W High-quality woody plants, foliage, and landscape supplies.
18. Izel Native Plants W User-friendly website/broker for native plants.





## Trade Show Exhibitors *continued*

W Wholesale  
R Retail

19. Kind Earth Growers W Native perennials for ecological restoration.
20. Kurt Bluemel, Inc. W Grower and supplier of ornamental grasses, bamboo, perennials, ferns, sedges, and rushes.
21. Landcraft Environments, Ltd. W Unusual annuals, tender perennials, and exotic tropicals.
22. Linden Hill Nursery W A family-owned wholesale nursery that provides specialized plant-sourcing and brokerage services for landscapers, designers, and architects.
23. Long Island Natives W The largest native plant grower on Long Island.
24. Meadow Lab W Meadow Lab is a public-benefit corporation dedicated to designing and delivering biodiverse, high-performance wildflower and native-plant systems that make it easier for designers, landscapers, and homeowners to put nature back where it belongs.





## Trade Show Exhibitors *continued*

W Wholesale  
R Retail

25. New Growth Designs W Artificial flowers, plants, and trees for the design trade.
26. New Moon Nursery W Eastern native perennials and grass liners.
27. North Creek Nurseries W Landscape plugs and liners focusing on eastern U.S. natives.
28. Organic Mechanics Soil W Premier organic potting soils and amendments.
29. Pinelands Nursery & Supply W Native plants for restorations.
30. Pleasant Run Nursery W New and unusual containerized woody ornamentals.
31. Pottery King W Largest inventory of wholesale commercial planters and garden pottery in the tri-state area.
32. Proven Winners® ColorChoice Shrubs W 320+ Proven Winners® ColorChoice Shrubs.
33. Proven Winners® Perennials W Collection of perennials chosen for their supreme quality and performance.
34. SiteOne Landscape Supply Co. W The green industry's no. 1 destination for landscape supplies, irrigation tools, and agronomic maintenance.
35. The Horticultural Society of New York (The Hort) R A non-profit organization focused on our city's greenspaces and engaging people with plants.
36. TheTickSuit R Protection from ticks while you garden, walk in the woods, or hike.
37. Tintori Castings W Architectural, custom fiberglass planters.

# Thank you to our generous Plant-O-Rama sponsors!

## Presenting Sponsor



## Speaker Sponsors



## Hospitality Sponsor



## Happy Hour Sponsor



## Supporting Sponsors

Landcraft Environments, Ltd.

Town and Gardens, Ltd.

# Seed Swap

🕒 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM    📍 Visitor Center

Some organizations exchange business cards but gardeners share seeds! Bring your cleaned or uncleaned, non-invasive seeds to share and trade.

Please bring the following information with your seeds: **botanical name**, **location sourced**, and **date**.

Envelopes and markers will be provided.



# Book Swap

🕒 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM    📍 Visitor Center

Make it green! Focus on topics related to gardening, horticulture, botany, design, ecology, or sustainability.



## Bring a book, take a book.

Each attendee may bring up to 5 gardening, plant, landscape, or nature-related books to exchange.



## Gently used, please.

Books should be in good condition—no missing pages, mold, or excessive damage. Well-loved is fine!



## Label your favorites.

If you'd like, include a note or bookmark sharing why you loved the book or what readers might enjoy about it.

## Take Responsibly

Please take no more books than you bring unless there are extras near the end of the event.

Any unclaimed books will be donated to Brooklyn Book Bodega and Brooklyn Greenway Initiative.

# Thank You!

Thank you to our **volunteers, staff**, and the **Metro Hort Board** who dedicate countless hours of time to ensuring that Plant-O-Rama is a success each year.

## Don't miss out on what's next!

Mark your calendars! We've got three exciting programs lined up this Spring. These **events** are just a taste of the professional growth, networking, and inspiration you'll find as part of our community.

Feb 19

How Modern Horticulture Lost the Plot:  
Plants as Essential Infrastructure

Mar 10

What's Next for Horticulture

Apr 7

Urban Greenspace Soils:  
Pests vs. Beneficials

## Not a member yet?

Now's the perfect time to join Metro Hort! Membership gives you access to all upcoming programs and exclusive industry opportunities. Check out our **website** for details on membership levels, upcoming events, and how you can get involved.

## Follow us on social media!

Facebook

Instagram

X

