



# MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

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**Date:** April 1, 2010

What's growing on  
at the Garden!

**CAST YOUR VOTE FOR THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN TO WIN ALL-AMERICA ROSE SELECTION'S "AMERICA'S BEST ROSE GARDEN" COMPETITION**  
*Voting Opens April 1 and Runs Through July 1*

(ST. LOUIS): The Missouri Botanical Garden is in the running to become the first winner of the All-American Rose Selections' (AARS) "America's Best Rose Garden" competition. This national competition to find the best public rose gardens in America officially launches today! Communities across the U.S. can vote online at [www.rose.org](http://www.rose.org) for their favorite local garden. The 2010 winner receives a \$2,500 cash donation and will be featured in a national campaign highlighting the best gardens in America.

Since 1938, the non-profit AARS has been dedicated to the introduction and promotion of exceptional roses. Each of the 130 AARS-plus accredited public rose gardens across the country bloom with hundreds, and sometimes thousands, of roses each year.

The top ten gardens with the most individual votes will become finalists. A panel of experts from AARS will travel to the five cities, review the gardens, and select one winner based on beauty, creativity and the garden's overall contribution to its community. The winner and nine finalists will be announced this summer.

"With more than 130 AARS accredited gardens nationwide, the competition is going to be tough," said Henry Conklin, AARS president. "Each AARS public garden has the potential to make a significant impact in its community, and AARS wants to celebrate and promote these beautiful gardens."

Visitors to the Missouri Botanical Garden's two rose displays can feast their eyes on over 2,700 individual plants, encompassing 259 varieties. The Gladney Rose Garden has been in existence

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### **ADD ONE: Rose Competition**

since 1917, when it housed many old garden roses. About 1,315 roses representing 105 varieties of mainly hybrid tea, shrub and floribunda roses are displayed. The Garden tries to update the display every year with roses that are highly disease resistant, show high vigor while also being hardy in St. Louis, as well new and unusual varieties. The Anne and John Lehmann Rose Garden, established in 1974, has been called the more romantic of the two gardens, with a bushy mix of florabundas, shrub roses and other classifications. It's less formal than the Gladney Rose Garden, and contains about 1,400 roses representing 154 different varieties.

To vote for the Missouri Botanical Garden in the All-America Rose Selections' "America's Best Rose Garden" competition, visit [www.rose.org/voteform](http://www.rose.org/voteform). Select Missouri as the State or Province, choose Gladney and Lehmann Rose Gardens, and then click the "submit" button. For more information, visit [www.mobot.org](http://www.mobot.org) or visit [www.rose.org](http://www.rose.org).

Admission to the Missouri Botanical Garden is \$8; St. Louis City and County residents enjoy discounted admission of \$4 and free admission on Wednesday and Saturday mornings until noon. Children ages 12 and under and Garden members are free.

The Missouri Botanical Garden is located at 4344 Shaw Blvd. in south St. Louis, accessible from Interstate 44 at the Vandeventer exit and from Interstate 64 at the Kingshighway North & South exit. Free parking is available on-site at the west lot and two blocks west at the corner of Shaw and Vandeventer.

For general information, visit [www.mobot.org](http://www.mobot.org) or call the recorded event line at (314) 577-9400 or toll-free 1 (800) 642-8842.

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**NOTE: Digital images available by request. Download media materials at [www.mobot.org/press](http://www.mobot.org/press).**

The Missouri Botanical Garden's mission is "to discover and share knowledge about plants and their environment in order to preserve and enrich life." Today, 151 years after opening, the Missouri Botanical Garden is a National Historic Landmark and a center for science, conservation, education and horticultural display.