

The Botanical Garden Receives A Bouquet for its Well-loved Rose Garden

The Garden's rose collection is honoured by the
North American Plant Collections Consortium (NAPCC)

Montréal, June 19, 2008 – Just as the first roses of summer are bursting into bloom, the Montréal Botanical Garden has announced that, following a lengthy evaluation process, its Rose Garden has been recognized by the *American Public Gardens Association (APGA)* as a reference collection of North American roses. With this designation, the Montréal Botanical Garden's Rose Garden joins the prestigious ranks of the *North American Plant Collections Consortium (NAPCC)*, a network of botanical gardens and arboreta dedicated to preserving biodiversity and managing plant collections across North America.

The Botanical Garden's Rose Garden, created in 1976, covers 2.5 hectares. It includes over 10,000 rose bushes and 1,200 cultivars of modern garden roses, old roses and wild roses, in a rainbow of hues. The rose collection includes some 115 species, a phenomenal number. By comparison, it has more than three times as many botanical species as the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in New York, or the one maintained by the University of British Columbia, both of which are renowned for their large rose collections.

Maintaining and developing the Montréal Botanical Garden's Rose Garden all year long is a tremendous challenge. Claire Laberge, the horticulturist responsible for this collection, has done a masterful job since 1989, in co-operation with a team of gardeners and the plant biology research institute (Institut de recherche en biologie végétale (IRBV)). With the support of the Garden's administration, the rose collection continues to grow thanks to the work of a panoply of experts, including curator Michel Labrecque, botanist Stéphane Bailleul and a number of other members of the horticultural team. The Rose Garden's development is also the result of many partnerships with universities and gardens across North America that have rose collections. In one initiative, a major taxonomic study of the *Rosa* genus drew on the wide variety of specimens in the Montréal Botanical Garden's Rose Garden collection. The expertise of the Montréal Botanical Garden's team and of its contributors augurs very well for the future. All these factors impressed the members of the NAPCC jury.

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Visual of the Rose Garden available on request