

# norfolk botanical garden

## HORTICULTURE HIGHLIGHTS

### Horticultural Highlights – Mid to Late March 2023

#### Ornamental Cherries – Japanese Garden, Boat Basin, Canal Walk, Arboretum, Garden-Wide

At the moment, the autumn flowering cherry (*Prunus subhirtella* 'Autumnalis') and the weeping cherries (*P. subhirtella* 'Pendula') are at peak bloom, but they will likely not last past the middle of the month. Next up is the Yoshino cherry (*P. x yedoensis*) which is the classic cherry blossom tree that many are familiar with. It is also the variety that are planted around the Tidal Basin in Washington, D.C. Their beauty is fleeting so don't miss out? Keep an eye out for the larger, pinker blooms of the Kwanzan cherry (*P. serrulata* 'Kwanzan'), the last cherry of the season.

#### Azaleas – Garden Wide

This iconic shrub will soon drape the Garden in an array of colors. At the moment, only the early varieties are showing color, but they should reach their peak bloom near the first of April this year. While you are enjoying the colors, please remember to thank the ladies and gentlemen who cleared the wild brush that was here to plant azaleas way back in 1938.

#### Orchids – Tropical Display House

The weather may still be a little chilly outside, but it is balmy in our Tropical Display House, and that is just how the plants in there like it, including our exotic orchid collection. At this time of year, they enter their peak bloom season. As the season progresses stop by often to see what might be in bloom.

#### Camellias – Hofheimer Camellia Garden

These old Southern favorites are actually native to China, Japan, and Korea. Camellias (*Camellia japonica* and hybrids) are prized for their large showy, winter and spring-blooming flowers. Although they are planted throughout NBG, the best place to see them is in the Hofheimer Camellia Garden. NBG has an internationally recognized camellia collection with over 1000 different varieties and nearly 2000 individual plants. This has been a spectacular year for the camellias at NBG, but see them soon as it is getting late in their season.

#### Daffodils – Garden-wide

March is the peak month for daffodils (*Narcissus* species and hybrids), but with the right selection you can have them blooming from January through April. Right now, most of the early and mid-season varieties are through, but there are quite a few later bloomers still flowering, but you will want to catch them soon. We celebrate Daffodil Daze every March with a series of Garden Walk and Talks, and daffodil themed classes.

#### Laurustinus – Border Garden

Covered in masses of white flowers, laurustinus (*Viburnum tinus* 'Compactum') was more recently covered in clusters of pale pink buds. Spring happens fast! This evergreen is one of many notable members of the large *Viburnum* family, and it makes a great alternative to some of the more overused foundation shrubs commonly planted.

#### Crabapples – Flowering Arboretum, Discovery Grove, and other places

One of spring's showiest flowering trees (*Malus* species), crabapples also do double duty in late summer by providing colorful fruit. They are indeed closely related to the apples we eat, but their fruit is smaller. Catch them quickly, their blooms do not last forever.