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Contact:

The Herb Society of America Names Top 10 Not-To-Miss Herb Gardens

KIRTLAND, OHIO-January 2008-Herb Gardening is one of the fastest growing trends in home gardening because herbs are both beautiful and useful! Gardeners can be inspired in their own efforts by visiting some of the nation's finest herb gardens. The Herb Society of America (HSA) has named a list of 10 not-to-miss herb gardens from Washington, D.C to Phoenix, Arizona that will inspire even the most inexperienced gardener.

“Our members selected gardens that they would make sure to see as they traveled across the country,” said Katrinka D. Morgan, executive director. “These gardens represent a collection of gardens supported by our members throughout the country and display a variety of historical, practical and horticultural themes.”

- The **National Herb Garden** located at the **U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C.** hosts hundreds of species and cultivars of herbs used for everything from perfume to cooking and from medicine to flower arranging. Every plant is labeled and interpretive signage helps the visitor understand the herbs in context with their history and use. The heart of the National Herb Garden is the ten Theme Gardens, where a variety of plants are brought together to illustrate the ways that herbs help people and their importance in different cultures. The Dye Garden, Medicinal Garden, Culinary Garden, Fragrance Garden, Industrial Garden and Beverage Garden feature the different ways in which herbs are important in our daily lives. The Native American Garden, Colonial Garden, Asian Garden and Dioscorides Garden depict the herbs that are important to different culture and different historical periods.
- Massachusetts Horticultural Society's **Elm Bank** herb gardens in **Wellesley, Massachusetts**. Elm Bank features several specialty and demonstration gardens, including the Noanett Garden Club (ornamental grasses), the Rhododendron Society, the Daylily Society, the Trail Gardens, Weezie's Children's Garden and the Italianate Garden. Elm Bank is noted for its Teaching Herb Garden which is divided into a variety of theme beds including fragrance, dye, culinary, friendship, Native American, medicinal, edible plants and flowers and a Colonial theme garden.
- **The Cloisters**, in **New York City, N.Y.** is located on four acres overlooking the Hudson River in northern Manhattan's Fort Tryon Park. Comprised from five medieval French cloisters (quadrangles enclosed by a roofed or vaulted passageway or arcade), three of the cloisters feature gardens planted according to horticultural information found in medieval treatises and poetry, garden documents and herbals and medieval works of art, such as tapestries, stained-glass windows and column capitals.

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- The **Cleveland Botanical Garden in Cleveland, Ohio** invites you to explore 10 acres of award-winning, world-class display gardens, including the Hershey Children's Garden, the first of its kind in Ohio as well as the Western Reserve Herb Society Garden. The Western Reserve Society Herb Garden features more than 4,000 plants in a traditional knot garden surrounded by a Trial and Cutting Garden, Dye Garden, Fragrance Garden, Historic Rose Garden, Medicinal Garden and Terrace Garden.
- Located in **Edenton, N.C., Tryon Palace Gardens** encompass more than 200 years of gardening history. From the simple beginnings of colonial times to the high style of the Victorian era, visitors will find a historic rendering of gardens typically found during the 18th and 19th centuries. Visit the kitchen and ornamental gardens of William Tryon's day or stroll through the wilderness where you will discover plants that early colonists encountered upon their arrival.
- In the southernmost part of the country is the **Kanapaha Botanical Garden**, located in **Gainesville, Florida**. Kanapaha is a 62-acre facility comprised of 16 major collections which include the state's largest public display of bamboos and the largest herb garden in the Southeast. Some of Kanapaha's gardens are organized taxonomically; others demonstrate natural selection. Kanapaha's signature plants include a three-crowned cabbage palm, the state's largest sago palm, a premier stand of Chinese royal bamboo (Wong Chuk) and during the warm months, giant Victorian water lilies and Asian snake arums. The months of June through September offer the most color.
- **Longue Vue House & Garden**, located in **New Orleans, Louisiana** is situated on eight acres of beauty that comprise Longue Vue's gardens, an idyllic and tranquil oasis in the lively pulse that is urban New Orleans. Though situated less than 20 minutes from the city's central business district and French Quarter, the gardens of Longue Vue are a world apart from the bustle of Bourbon Street. August 2005, represents a pivotal time in Longue Vue's history-Hurricane Katrina left the gardens and fountains severely damaged, trees sustained wind damage and maybe affected by stress and pollution for years into the future. Amazingly, the historic glass greenhouse did not lose a pane of glass. In the past two and one-half years, Longue Vue has made tremendous progress-much of the garden has been replanted and the electrical systems are working. But they are still restoring, repairing, regreening and rebuilding. Longue Vue reports on their website, that they have "received an outpouring of generosity in the form of words, funds, volunteers and support. We came to learn that Longue Vue holds a place near and dear to the hearts of many New Orleanians, as well as visitors from around the world."

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- The herb garden at the **Dallas Arboretum in Dallas, Texas** is a visual banquet that is ablaze in color year-round. The fragrant gardens and lush lawns on the shores of an enchanting lake that overlooks downtown Dallas, also features intriguing sculptures, sparkling fountains and two historic mansions. Young and old alike enjoy year-round activities for the entire family.
- Located in the heart of the mile-high city, the **Denver Botanical Gardens in Colorado** host a display of more than 32,000 plants from as far away as Australia, Africa and the Himalayas. Explore 23 acres of fragrance and foliage any time of the year. Additional sites at the Denver Botanical Gardens just south of Denver at Chatfield, a 750-acre wildlife and native plant refuge in Littleton and Mt. Goliath, a high altitude trail and alpine rock garden on the Mt. Evans Scenic Byway, extend this experience throughout the Front Range.
- The **Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, Arizona**, is nestled amid the red buttes of Papago Park, and hosts one of the world's finest collections of desert plants. One of only 44 botanical gardens accredited by the American Association of Museums, this one-of-a-kind museum showcases 50 acres of beautiful outdoor exhibits. Home to 139 rare, threatened and endangered plant species from around the world, the garden offers interesting and inspiring experiences.

10 Not-to-Miss Herb Gardens websites

- Cleveland Botanical Garden, Cleveland, Ohio-www.cb garden.org
- Dallas Arboretum, Dallas, Texas-www.dallasarboretum.org
- Denver Botanical Gardens, Denver, Colorado-www.botanicgardens.org
- Desert Botanical Gardens, Phoenix, Arizona-www.dbg.org
- Elm Bank, Wellesley, Massachusetts-www.masshort.org
- Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, Gainesville, Florida-www.kanapaha.org
- Longue Vue House & Garden, New Orleans, Louisiana-www.longuevue.com
- Tryon Palace Gardens, Edenton, North Carolina-www.tryonpalace.org
- The Cloisters, New York, N.Y.- www.metmuseum.org
- The National Herb Garden, Washington, D.C.-www.usna.usda.gov

The Herb Society of America, Inc. is dedicated to promoting the knowledge, use and delight of herbs through educational programs, research and sharing the experiences of its members with the community. Members of The Society have a variety of interests including gardening, cooking, crafts, education and research and sharing activities with children. For more information or to purchase a membership or gift membership to The Herb Society of America please contact 440-256-0514 or visit www.herbsociety.org. The Herb Society of America is a 501 (c) (3) organization.

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