Synoptic Garden at Planting Fields

Located in the northeast section of Planting Fields Arboretum, the beautifully landscaped five-acre Synoptic Garden offers an overview (synoptic means synopsis or overview) of plants that thrive in Long Island area gardens. More than 1,000 different types of plants are arranged alphabetically by their botanical (genus) names, and each is labeled with its Latin and common names, its family and country of origin. Some are mature and others are new and improved varieties. Throughout the garden and its environs are many deciduous and evergreen trees including Oak, Beech, Dogwood, Crabapple, Magnolia and Eastern White Pine.

The Synoptic Garden was created in the 1960s as an outdoor laboratory for students studying horticulture at Planting Fields and other local academic facilities such as The State University of New York, Agricultural and Technical Institute, Farmingdale, known today as Farmingdale State College. Many horticultural programs were conducted in Coe Hall, the former estate house of William Robertson Coe and his wife, Mai. Mr. Coe deeded Planting Fields to New York State in 1949 for educational purposes. Today it is part of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

The Synoptic Garden offers visitors the opportunity to observe the growing habits and aesthetic qualities of each plant in all four seasons. There is something in bloom or of special interest every month of the year. Enjoy your visit and return often.

Seasonal Highlights at Planting Fields

Each month there is something special to see throughout the 409 acres, Main Greenhouse and Camellia Greenhouse of Planting Fields.

**January – February**  
Bark textures of Beech, Oak and other trees including Eastern White Pine, plus fruit and foliage of native and exotic species of holly can be seen, along with blooming camellias in the Camellia Greenhouse.

**March**  
Early Rhododendrons and Magnolias begin to bud and Pussy Willow is in bloom.

**April**  
Daffodils and other spring bulbs are in bloom.

**May**  
Cherries, Crabapples, Dogwoods, Lilacs, Mountain Laurels, Rhododendrons and Viburnums are in bloom.

**June**  
Kousa Dogwood, Roses and perennials begin to bloom.

**July**  
Butterfly Bush, Bottlebrush Buckeye, Daphnes and perennials are in full bloom.

**August – September**  
Clethra, Butterfly Bush and St. Johnswort are in flower.

**October**  
Fall foliage, Hollies, Beautyberry, Viburnums and other shrubs begin fruiting.

**November**  
Fall foliage and fruiting shrubs show their colors.

**December**  
Bark and foliage, textures of Yews, Eastern White Pine, broadleaved evergreens and berry-filled Hollies brighten the winter landscape.
Please stay on the trails and watch your footing.