

MORE FOR THE NORTHEAST

SPECIAL NORTHEASTERN SUPPLEMENT

PLACES TO GO, THINGS TO DO

APRIL 1

Show & Sale

Windsor African Violet Society
Windsor, CT
860-242-0162
<http://instafax.com/wavs>

APRIL 1-23

Spring Flower Show

Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens
Buffalo, NY
716-827-1584
www.buffalogardens.com

THROUGH APRIL 2

The Orchid Show

The New York Botanical Garden
Bronx, NY
718-817-8777
www.nybg.org

APRIL 2

Garden Show

The Brockton Garden Club
Brockton, MA
508-942-7535
www.brocktongc.org

APRIL 2-3

Show and Sale

Connecticut Cactus &

Plants, Front and Center

Pick up inspiration and ideas at nurseries with over-the-top display gardens

At many fine nurseries in the Northeast, striking display gardens greatly enhance the gardener's shopping experience. While most nurseries maintain a tight ratio between sales area and displays, some really outdo themselves. Sophisticated gardens rivaling parks in scale and splendor can swiftly transform a day of shopping into an exhilarating escapade.

North of Boston, the folks at Newbury Perennial Gardens in Byfield, Massachusetts, run a well-stocked nursery and garden center alongside a formal 12-acre estate sweeping down to the Parker River. Once a ragged hayfield, this floral park has the feel of a Virginia tide-water plantation transplanted to Massachusetts. Its beauty often draws couples to rent it for wedding ceremonies. Newbury boasts 24 individual theme gardens, including an ornamental grotto, a formal allée, and a "waterfall" whose cascade of low white-flowering shrubs "flows" only in spring. Don't miss the mourning gar-



den—a tiny pet cemetery planted with weeping trees.

In northeastern Connecticut, Quintessential Gardens at Fort Hill Farms is a perennial-plant nursery that manages to keep 63 flower gardens going inside a 1,038-acre working farmscape. Individual gardens include a huge iris bed, a mixed-perennial border along a 350-foot stone wall, and a quintessentially English labyrinth planted entirely in lavender. In recognition of the intense labor required to maintain

perennial beds, the gardens have become quite a tourist attraction.

In eastern Rhode Island, the Kinney Azalea Gardens defy the notion that azaleas are a one-season shrub. Dr. Lorenzo Kinney, an amateur hybridizer, began planting this backyard oasis in 1956 to ease his wife's nostalgia for southern azaleas. Since Kinney's death, his family has continued to expand the gardens, opening them year-round for public enjoyment. Thousands upon thousands of mature hardy azaleas enchant visitors with

On the
Road

More for the Northeast



PLACES TO GO, THINGS TO DO

Succulent Society
Waterbury, CT
www.ctcactusclub.com

APRIL 7-9
Bangor Garden Show
Bangor, ME
207-990-4444
www.bangorgardenshow.com

APRIL 8
**Great Gardens and
Landscaping Symposium**
Albany, NY
518-885-3471
www.pyours.com/Symposium2006.html

APRIL 11
**Meeting and Lecture:
Container Gardening
with Spring Magic**
Salem Garden Club
Salem, NH
www.salemgardenclub.org

APRIL 15-30
Daffodil Days
Blithewold Mansion, Gardens & Arboretum
Bristol, RI
401-253-2707
www.blithewold.org

APRIL 22
**Class: Techniques for
Planting and
Transplanting Trees
and Shrubs**
Arnold Arboretum
Jamaica Plain, MA
617-524-1718
www.arboretum.harvard.edu

On the Road

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their spectacular spring bloom, autumnal blaze, and naturalistic architecture. A University of Rhode Island botanist oversees the five-acre gardens. Landscape specimens and cutting-grown azaleas are sold in a small nursery on the premises.

The demonstration gardens at Twombly Nursery in southern Connecticut are revered for their lively combinations of rare and unusual plants. Mixed-shrub borders, imaginatively accented with specimen evergreens and Japanese maples, give the five-

acre gardens an unusual elegance. Even the parking lot islands are planted as living tapestries. Twombly's celebrated Winter Garden combines plants that cheer a frosty landscape, sporting colorful twigs and berries, decorative bark, and shapely branches to play a game of shadows against glinting snow.

Just 20 miles north of New York City lies Matterhorn Nursery, known as the Disneyland of garden centers. The nickname is well deserved, given Matterhorn's 38-acre gardener's village, a home-and-garden emporium of

30 shops surrounded by display gardens. Its gardens have won many design awards, including the Perennial Plant Association's Landscape Design of the Year. Some of the most impressive designs come to life in the English Rose Garden (modeled after the Renaissance Garden at David Austin's British rose nursery) and the Folly Garden, with its fantastical garden structures. Seasonal tree houses and hay mazes offer diversions for children. The water gardens, adorned with talkative fountains and fluid tanks of ornamental fish, are mesmerizing year-round.—Ruah Donnelly

If You Go: On the Road

Kinney Azalea Gardens

2391 Kingstown Road, Kingston, RI 02881; 401-783-2396
Open year-round, daily, from dawn to dusk.

📍 Nearby Nibbles: Try the clam cakes at Duffy's Tavern, 235 Tower Hill Road (401-295-0073) in quaint Wickford Village (North Kingstown).

Matterhorn Nursery

227 Summit Park Road, Spring Valley, NY 10977; 845-354-5986; www.matterhornnursery.com
Open year-round, Monday to Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 10 to 5.

📍 Nearby Nibbles: You won't have to leave the premises to take your break—the Matterhorn Café, right in the Gardener's Village, sells light food and box lunches for picnics.

Newbury Perennial Gardens

65 Orchard Street, Byfield, MA 01922; 978-462-1144; www.newburyperennialgardens.com

Open from mid-April through September. The nursery is open seven days a week, but the display gardens are closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and occasionally for private functions. Call ahead to be sure!

📍 Nearby Nibbles: For lunch, head up Route 1 to historic Newburyport's charming downtown. The Grog, 13 Middle Street (978-465-8008; www.thegrog.com), first opened as the "Ladies and Gents Eating and Oyster House" just after the Civil War. They have your "old standby" chowders and burgers, along with some new-fangled fare.

Quintessential Gardens at Fort Hill Farms

260 Quaddick Road, Thompson, CT 06277; 860-923-3439; www.quintessentialgardens.com
Open April through October, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Mondays.

📍 Nearby Nibbles: Follow Route 169 through Connecticut's "Quiet Corner" to the delightful Vanilla Bean Café (860-928-1562; www.thevanillabeancafe.com). At the intersection of 169, 44, and 97 in Pomfret, it's a local favorite for sandwiches, soups, and daily specials.

Twombly Nursery

163 Barn Hill Road, Monroe, CT 06468
860-261-2133
www.twomblynursery.com
Open March through November, Monday to Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 9 to 4.

📍 Nearby Nibbles: Duchess of Monroe, 134 Main Street, Monroe (203-452-0197) is a family-owned "fast food joint" with fresh-cooked food. After lunch, head to the 91-acre Bartlett Arboretum, 151 Brookdale Road, Stamford (203-322-6971; www.bartlettarboretum.org) to see mature conifers, championship trees, and witches'-broom seedlings.