

Leiden University
The Netherlands
By P.J.A. Keßler, Prefect

The Hortus botanicus is the oldest botanic garden in the Netherlands and located in the historical centre of Leiden. Behind the Academy Building of the University of Leiden you will discover a green oasis with a large collection of plants native to South-east and East Asia, Southern Europe and South Africa. The Hortus is a haven within the city centre, a historical monument and a meeting place full of character. People come here to relax, enjoy the seasons or to learn more about the diversity of the world of plant.

A living museum

HORTI PUBLICI ACADEMIÆ LUGDUNO-BATAVÆ, CUM AREOLIS ET PULVILLIS VERA DELINEATIO.



The current Front Garden is the oldest part of the Hortus. It houses the Clusius garden which is a reconstruction of the garden of 1594. Here you will also find the Winter Garden which houses a large collection of (endangered) Cycads and carnivorous plants. The Hortus also has a monumental Orangery dating from 1744, and extensive tropical greenhouses, many old trees, a beautiful Fern Garden, Rosarium, Japanese Garden, Herb Garden, and Systematic Garden. Many famous international scientists such as Clusius, Boerhaave, and Linnaeus, were involved in the Hortus botanicus in Leiden. In the 19th century the German physician Philipp Franz von Siebold (1796 - 1866) brought hundreds of plant species with him from Japan to the Netherlands, and 15 of these original introductions can still be found in the Hortus today.



Carolus Clusius, 1526-1609

After the recent renovations of the Orangery, the Academy Building, and the Observatory, the Hortus area will be extended in 2011 for the first time after 150 years with 0.5 ha where even more emphasis will be given to our Asiatic collection. Our monumental greenhouses will be renovated sustainably from 2012 onwards.

Research and education

The Hortus botanicus in Leiden has always been a garden where students come to study plants. Scientists of the Hortus are cooperating with NCB Naturalis (Netherlands Centre for Biodiversity Naturalis) to carry out research on plants, like DNA Barcoding on Cycads, orchids, and ferns. The Hortus also plays an important role in the cultivation and preservation of endangered species. Dutch and foreign botanical gardens are cooperating and exchanging material in order to preserve these threatened species.

Internships are available for (inter)national students of biology, horticulture, and communication. Education programmes for school kids, university students, and common visitors are available, and our guests can use our I-pod application which provides a tour through the garden.

National and International networks

The Hortus botanicus is member of various national and international organizations like Dutch Botanical Gardens Foundation (NVBT) and the Dutch Botanic Garden Collections Foundation (SNP). All members of the NVBT aim at contributing to the conservation of botanical diversity.



Hydrangea, in Von Siebold's "Flora Japonica", 1870



The NVBT is closely linked to the Dutch Botanical Garden Collections Foundation (SNP). The SNP coordinates the scientifically managed living plants collections, jointly maintained by the participating botanic gardens and guards the quality of these collections. The garden is a partner of Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI). The importance of forming networks for conservation and (scientific) cooperation cannot be underestimated. Since seven years the Hortus is a member of the Netherlands Museums Association (NMV) which is the national association for more than 500 museums in the Netherlands.

Public activities

The Hortus flourishes throughout the year and there is always something going on. Activities are organised in every season. Annual plant shows introduce the visitors to the research collections of the Hortus and various cultivar groups. For the current programme please visit www.hortusleiden.nl.

Dendrobium Bracteosum

Opening hours

Winter season: November 1 - March 31

Open Tuesdays until Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Closed on Mondays and 25th December until 1st January

Summer season: April 1 - October 31

Open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Closed October 3 (liberation day of Leiden)

Wheelchair accessibility

The Hortus walks are accessible to people in wheelchairs, with the exception of the Victoria House and Canopy Walk in the Winter Garden. Companions of wheelchair users can enter the Hortus for free. The toilet for disabled people is located in the Winter Garden.

The Hortus is just a 10 minute walk from Leiden Central Station. There are only few parking spaces in the direct vicinity of the garden. We therefore recommend car park Haagweg near the city centre, which offers a free shuttle bus service to the centre of Leiden and the Hortus:

Car park Haagweg

Haagweg 6

2311 AA Leiden

www.stadsparkerplan.com

Hortus botanicus Leiden

Entrance for visitors:

Rapenburg 73

NL-2311 GJ Leiden

Postal address:

P.O. Box 9516

NL-2300 RA Leiden

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<http://www.hortusleiden.nl>



From the Clusis garden