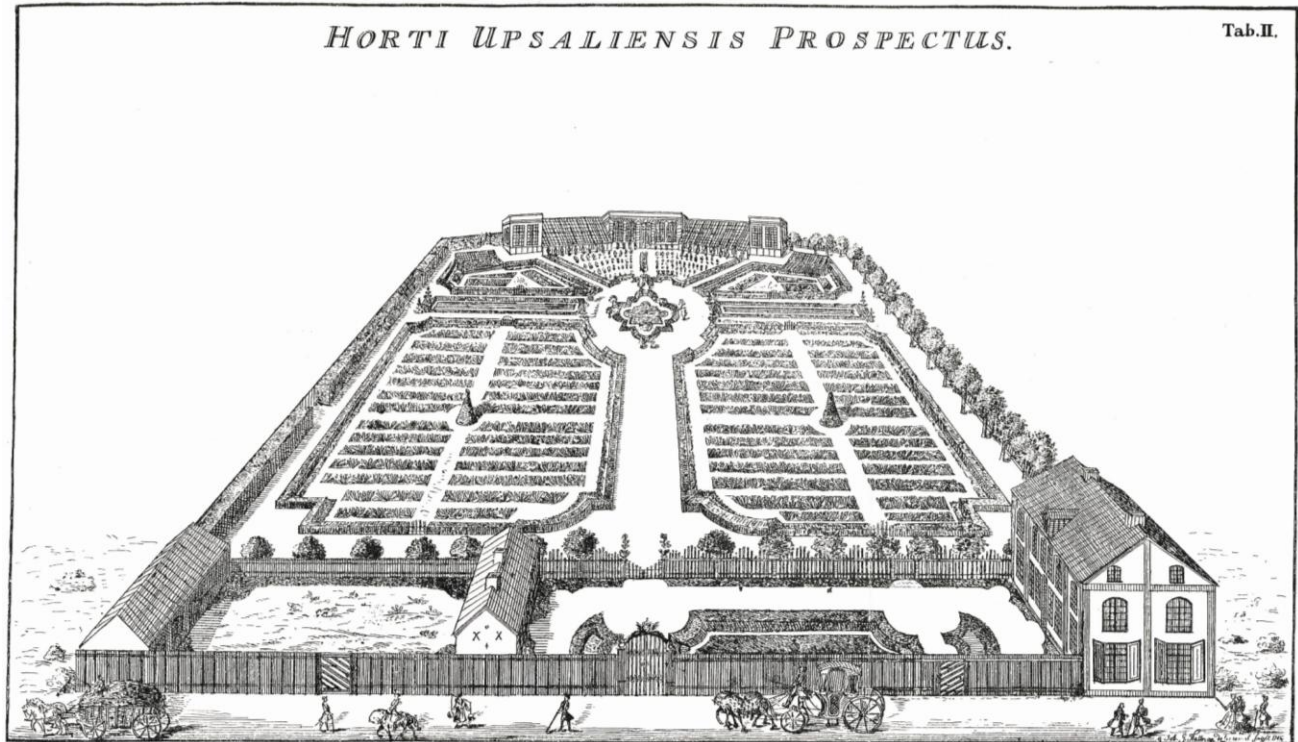




Uppsala University Botanic Gardens  
The Linnaean Gardens of Uppsala

## The Linnaeus Garden



A small *Hortus Academicus* was established in 1655 by *Olof Rudbeck* the elder. In the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century he enumerates 1,800 species and cultivars in a garden catalogue.

Under the directorship of *Linnaeus* 1741-1778 the garden transformed and expanded considerably. As the site was crowded and often flooded, a new garden was needed. By the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century *Linnaeus*' old garden was abandoned, until restored in the 1920's to its 1750 shape.



A view of the garden from 1745

The Linnaeus Garden is a text book in Linnaean botany and medicine. In this baroque style garden, with its strict symmetry, plant relationships, life-forms, phenology, and ecology are made obvious.

The two main parterres, one displaying annual plants and the other perennials, each have 44 flower beds arranged according to Linnaeus' sexual system. Here the 24 classes based on stamen number and arrangement can be thoroughly investigated. Most plants in the garden have medical properties and learning the actual plants behind the drugs was immensely important for the 18<sup>th</sup> century medical student.



A parterre for spring-flowering plants is found in the warmest spot of the garden, right in front of the Orangerie(above) which acts like a giant reflector capturing the mid day sun. One of the early flowering plants is the wild tulip *Tulipa sylvestris*, a 17<sup>th</sup> century remnant which is found wild all over the garden (left).



In the autumn parterre Linnaeus grew his “Indian” or “Virginian” plants, i.e. plants from Eastern North America. Here you find the coneflower *Rudbeckia laciniata* named by Linnaeus after the founder of the garden, Olof Rudbeck the elder, and his son, Olof Rudbeck the younger.

Linnaeus designed the first ever ecological plantations. In the lake pond, the river pond, and the marsh pond plants are grown as in their natural environments.

The Common newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*) thrives in the lake pond. Otherwise, no animals are held in the garden today. Linnaeus, who loved animals, had for example monkeys, parrots, guinea pigs, and peacocks both for study and for company. Some, like the racoon Sjupp, became family pets.

In the Orangery Linnaeus could grow exotic plants, for example coffee and cacao. He succeeded in repeating his masterpiece from his Holland years by getting the banana to flower and set fruit. Nowadays the orangery is used for exhibitions, dissertation parties, weddings, etc., and the “new” Orangery (over 200 years old) in the Botanic Garden has taken over its function.

The Linnaeus Garden, today a national monument, is located close to the city centre and is open to the public from May to September.



Twin flower (*Linnaea borealis*), Linnaeus' favourite flower.

# Uppsala Botanic Garden



The pruned pyramids of the **Baroque Garden** are spruce (*Picea abies*), a northern substitute for the more tender *Taxus*. **Linnaeanum** with its classical façade was once built to further the linnaean sciences. Its south wing, the orangery, is the winter retreat for four *Laurus nobilis* trees planted by Linnaeus 250 years ago, that – together with date palms, figs, *Wollemia* etc. – are brought outside from May to mid-October. During this period the orangery is used for exhibitions of fine art.

Carl Peter Thunberg, Linnaeus' most important disciple, persuaded the king to donate the garden of the royal palace for a new academic garden. It is today a modern botanic garden, engaged in education, research and conservation, and with an ambitious public programme.

The botanic garden consists of two parts. The old palace garden has kept its strictly symmetrical skeleton from 1660, although the exact present layout is a hundred years younger, while the **Linnaeanum** (above and below) was completed only in 1805. Among other features of note on the "old" side of the road dividing the garden are systematic quarters of woody plants (e. g. birch) and a pond with red water lilies.



The more recent part south of the road includes a tropical greenhouse with a collection of *Saintpaulia*, including numerous threatened species, an area with economic plants from medicine to food and rubber, and a small arboretum with wild collected trees from temperate parts of the world. Under construction (2011) are a rock garden (with rocks weighing up to 15 tons!) and a phylogenetic field in the shape of a tree complete with branches and leaves.



*Kleinia caespitosa* (left) and *Aloë nugalensis* from the Horn of Africa exemplify the species described as new to science based on plants grown in our garden [cactus house]



The Asian *Arisaema fimbriatum* teaches our kids and students that some plants deceive their pollinators – in this case female flies looking for places to lay their eggs [tropical greenhouse]



The South American *Heliconia rostrata* (left) demonstrates a typical hummingbird syndrome, whereas the Indian *Thunbergia mysorensis* is pollinated by sunbirds. [tropical greenhouse]

Uppsala Botanic Garden is located just west of Uppsala palace, and is, including the tropical greenhouse, open to the public all year.



The Asiatic peat hill boasts a unique collection of *Corydalis*. Discovered in 2007, *C. anthocrene* (China: Sichuan) is yet only known from two individuals (above)

*Orobanche* is a flowering plant genus parasitising other flowering plants, in this case *O. lucorum* on *Berberis*(right).



*Byblis*



*Akebia quinata*

## Linnaeus' Hammarby

Linnaeus' summerhouse Hammarby is one of the best preserved 18<sup>th</sup> century houses in Sweden and is today a popular recreation spot as well as a historic monument, a sanctuary for surviving linnaean plant clones and a place for contemplation and education.



The manor house at Linnaeus' Hammarby with Siberian crab apple (*Malus baccata*) in flower.

Nowhere will you get closer to Linnaeus than on his beloved Hammarby. Entering his house you step right into Linnaeus' realm of scientific work and net working as well as his private sphere. Each spring a flowering Siberian crab apple tree on the court yard welcomes visitors and from Linnaeus' study St Lucy's cherry can be admired. For two and a half century the flowering of these trees planted by Linnaeus have announced summer, the season Linnaeus and his family loved to spend at Hammarby.

Already a world famous natural historian and a renowned professor of medicine he bought the estate in 1758. He needed a place to escape the unhealthy environment of Uppsala and to secure the subsistence of his wife and five children if he were to die.

Still today we can admire his summer house and garden. Visitors can easily picture both Linnaeus' scientific work and family life. Linnaeus decorated his study and bedroom with the things he cherished: his beloved plants, literally stuck to the walls, interesting animals, his coat of arms, as well as portraits of family members and patrons. Standing in his study by his desk you get the feeling that Linnaeus only just left the room, perhaps teaching students in the garden, and soon will come back.

Apart from the two trees mentioned initially, there are about forty plant species from Linnaeus' days still surviving at Hammarby. The scopolia is restricted to its presumably original spot while dog's mercury is spreading all over the area.



.The henbane bell (*Scopolia carniolica*), one of the forty Linnaean plants at Hammarby



The martagon lily (*Lilium martagon*) is a Linnaean plant which is found in plenty at Hammarby



Being able to actually study the same plant individuals or clones as Linnaeus did is of great importance. Doing it in a genuine 18<sup>th</sup> century environment is of extra value. To enhance the experience even further, the surrounding landscape is since 2007 a cultural reserve managed by 18<sup>th</sup> century methods.

On the hill behind the manor house there is a small yellow stone house. This is Linnaeus' natural history museum – his *museum in altis*, his castle in the air. After several fires, Linnaeus realised that his herbarium specimens and his vast collections of animals in alcohol, insects, minerals, etc. were in danger. A fire proof museum was built in a fortnight. The opening was celebrated and the crown prince paid a visit.

The manor house at Linnaeus' Hammarby with St Lucy's cherry (*Prunus mahaleb*) in flower.

The same prince was as king not visited by the immensely rich Lord Baltimore. The Lord had no interest in meeting royalties but came to Sweden to meet the Floral King. And people continue to come to Hammarby. Whether they are interested in the life and work of Linnaeus, cultural history, science, gardens, the country side or just to rest a while with a cup of coffee, Hammarby will do the job.



The manor house in February

Linnaeus' Hammarby is situated 15 km SE of the city centre. It is open from May to September and is most easily reached by bicycle or car.

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