



DALLAS ARBORETUM
AND BOTANICAL GARDEN

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**Dallas Arboretum Shares Floral Meanings and Festivities with Valentine's Day
Around the Corner**

DALLAS, Texas (January 26, 2017) – With Valentine's Day around the corner, flowers get top billing during this season, right behind candy, so the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden has both festivities and floral meanings ready for those couples wanting something unique to do in one of the "most romantic places in Dallas," according to *USA Today* 10Best .

Celebrate Valentine's Day all weekend in the garden beginning February 10 - 14. On Friday, enjoy a picnic and romantic melodies at the Martin Rutchik Concert Stage & Lawn. Saturday and Sunday, delight in brunch at Restaurant DeGolyer (no reservation required), stop by the kissing booth at Cafe on the Green and grab a photo from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and enjoy live music at the Val Late Garden throughout the day. On Monday, enjoy a relaxing stroll with a friend and melodies on the Martin Rutchik Concert Stage & Lawn.

For Valentine's Day, the garden will stay open until 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 14, encouraging couples to pack a picnic, purchase food from Bellatrino Brick Oven pizza food truck and stop by the kissing booth at Cafe on the Green, open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. While eating, sweethearts and families can watch the sunset and listen to live music on the Martin Rutchik Concert Stage and Lawn later that evening. Admission is \$5 per person plus parking.

The Arboretum also offers Friendship Tea in Restaurant DeGolyer now through February 24 daily at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Cost is \$39 per person ages 13 and up, and \$49 for champagne tea. Reservations are required by calling 214.515.6511.

Dave Forehand, Dallas Arboretum's vice president of gardens, said, "There's nothing more romantic than flowers, and the Dallas Arboretum has thousands of them. If you really want

to impress your date, let him or her know about the colors, types of flowers and their meanings."

Red is the unquestioned symbol of romantic love. Red is symbolic of the heart.

Orange represents happiness and joy. Orange flowers, like the sun, give off warmth.

Pink represents playfulness of new love and more recently thoughtfulness and spontaneity.

Yellow represents friendship and platonic love. Yellow is a great color in the workplace to recognize a colleague.

Blue can represent serenity and communicates trust. They are calming like the blue of the ocean.

White is associated with purity and innocence, hence, they are so often used in wedding bouquets. It can also represent sympathy.

Here are the meanings of various flowers, many of which can be seen at the Arboretum:

Roses:

With their simple, elegant beauty and their rich fragrance roses have been the favorite flower through the ages. Roses are the enduring symbol of love and appreciation.

Tulips:

Tulips are fun, bright and easy. It's a comfortable flower that makes people feel happy and relaxed. Paired with a color choice, this flower is very versatile.

Carnations:

This one of the oldest cultivated flowers dating back to the ancient Greeks. It's such a durable flower that is carefree, but distinctive.

Sunflowers:

This flower exudes happiness. Bright and cheerful, the petals are like rays of sunshine. Sunflowers symbolize loyalty and longevity.

Gladioluses:

The Latin word for sword is *gladius*. The leaves of Gladiolus are shaped like swords. These flowers were seen as a sign of luck and protection during Roman gladiator times. This association led to the sentiment of strength of character.

Hydrangeas:

They are very popular for their big blooms and sweet smell. They can represent apology or gratitude. In early European times they could be used as a symbol to declare arrogance.

The Arboretum horticulture staff is getting ready for Dallas Blooms, one of "America's best spring floral festivals," according to *USA Today* 10Best, which opens on February 25 and runs through April 9 with the theme *Peace, Love and Flower Power*, showcasing an

explosion of color with more than 500,000 spring-blooming blossoms and dazzling layers of landscape at every turn. Dallas Blooms features 100 varieties of tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, pansies, violas, poppies and thousands of other spring-blooming annuals and perennials. The finale of this spring celebration is the mass flowering of the garden's collection of 3,000 azaleas that bloom during the end of April. A special thanks to IBERIABANK as the Dallas Blooms presenting sponsor. Throughout Dallas Blooms, there are many activities, special concerts and events to celebrate spring's welcome. More information can be found at dallasarboretum.org.

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