

Welcome to The Gardens at Elm Bank!

Use this guide to explore the gardens with your family.

Trial Garden

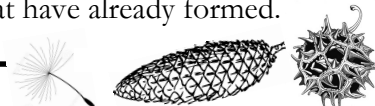
The Trial Garden is a place where we test new varieties of **annuals**. Annuals are plants that grow for just one season, and they must produce seed each summer to make sure another generation of this plant will grow next year. Annuals are often brightly colored or fragrant. This helps attract pollinators such as birds, bees and butterflies, that help the plant produce seeds.



Weezie's Children's Garden

Can you find pollinators in Weezie's Garden? Pollinators like bumblebees will gather nectar to eat from flowers. As they do this, they get covered in pollen. When they move to another plant, pollen falls off, when it falls onto another flower— we call it **pollination**. When this happens, the plant can produce seeds. Those seeds contain baby plants.

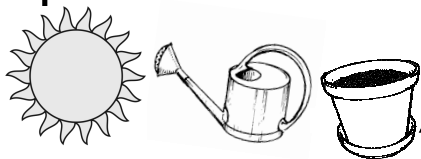
As you explore the gardens, look for pollinators at work and seeds that have already formed.



Bressingham Garden

This garden reminds the designer of his home in England. The plants come from all around the world. People have brought plants to new places for thousands of years! A seed can grow in a new place as long as it gets the sunlight, water and nutrients (often in the soil) it needs. The seeds settlers bring with them grow into useful plants like trees for building, medicinal flowers, and favorite foods.

Many of our ancestors brought seeds and plants to new places, do you know know a plant they carried? What favorite plants would you bring?



"Garden to Table" Garden

What did you eat today? Can you find its ingredients in this garden? Can you find any seeds? Are they hidden inside fruit? How do you think it helps a plant to hide its seeds in tasty fruits and vegetables?

It's not just people who move seeds, animals may eat a fruit that contains seeds and spread undigested seeds to new places where the plant can grow. This is called **dispersal**.

Did You Know?

Botanists are scientists who study plants. Botanists call anything that contains seeds a fruit— things such as peas, zucchini, tomatoes and apples!



Historical Gardens

Explore the Italianate Garden, it was designed to be like a room of the house. The Copper Beech trees create walls, and the straight paths are like hallways. Without care, seeds could be dispersed into this garden, grow and change the landscape. Look down the hill from the garden, you will see remnants of a Temple Garden and Asian Garden— a cement platform and an old bridge. Over time, seeds were carried here by wind and animals. New plants grew until the gardens were wild!

In the years ahead, Mass Hort will restore these gardens. What do you think they will look like?



Historic Daffodil & Native Plant Garden of the Noanett Garden Club

This garden is full of native plants that are part of the historical landscape as they have grown in this region for a long time, more than 400 years. Native plants are helpful to wild animals as they provide important food and habitat to animals in the area such as butterflies and other insects that eat nectar from flowers or squirrels who eat nuts like acorns or seeds in pinecones. The animals help the plants too—by spreading their seeds to new places where the plant can grow!

Look for a plant that might be food for an animal.



Goddess Garden

The Goddess Statues once stood atop the Mass Hort building in downtown Boston. They are the goddesses Pomona, Ceres and Flora.

Can you figure out how they relate to **horticulture**, the practice of gardening? Look at what they are holding if you need a hint.



Teaching Herb Garden

Throughout history, people have used herbs for many reasons. They can be used for medicine, food, flavor or dye. This garden highlights the many uses of herbs. Explore the different beds. The planters near the benches hold fragrant herbs that visitors may touch and smell.

Can you find a plant that smells good?



Alan Payton Rhododendron Display Garden

Rhododendrons are evergreen plants. Their leaves stay green all year long. But they only have their colorful flowers for a short time in late spring.

These flowers are a welcome sight to garden visitors and pollinators alike. Can you see any flowers here?

Flowers in this garden bloom in spring, and flowers in the Trial garden bloom in the summer.

How do you think this might help pollinators? Would you want to eat all of your daily meals at one time?



New England Daylily Garden

This garden contains more than 600 types of daylilies. Daylilies were one of the first flowers people grew in North America just because they were pretty. Some of the lilies you find in this garden have been grown for more than 100 years.

Have you spotted a daylily near your home? Keep a look out! These are plants your ancestors may have grown.

Can you find a daylily that you would like to grow because it's beautiful?



Keep Exploring

You have seen plants of different colors, gardens of different designs, maybe even seeds and pollinators at work. You can find these things in our gardens and in your own neighborhood. Explore your backyard, your school yard or your neighborhood.

Not ready to leave? Take a walk along the Charles River on the nature trails of the Elm Bank Reservation! There is lots to see and explore.