



**New England
Botanic Garden**
AT TOWER HILL

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Step into a world of botanical wonder and embrace the bizarre during *Stranger Plants* at New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill

Nature gets weird August 30 – November 2

BOYLSTON, MA, August 12, 2025 — [New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill](#) invites visitors to embrace the unusual this fall with an exciting new exhibition created for curious minds. [Stranger Plants](#) brings to life a collection of otherworldly, imagined plants inspired by the remarkable adaptations of Earth's most interesting species. Artfully crafted botanical curiosities emerge in the Garden along with opportunities to learn about fascinating real-life plants. *Stranger Plants* is included with general admission and runs from August 30 through November 2.

"We're really excited to share *Stranger Plants* with our visitors," says Lea Morgan, manager of exhibitions at New England Botanic Garden. Morgan is responsible for the creative vision and fabrication of *Stranger Plants*. She has been at the Garden since 2021, applying her background in biology and studio art to create one-of-a-kind, sometimes out-of-this-world artistic adventures.



"Autumn is always magical at the Garden, and to take it to another level, we really put our imaginations into developing a unique, immersive, and surprising exhibition that we hope will spark joy and inspire people to learn more about the natural world," Morgan says.

A seasonal exhibition celebrating nature and the inherent sense of mystery and wonder that the autumn season brings has grown into a tradition. Last year, the Boylston-based botanic garden exhibited an enchanting display of fairy houses crafted from nature-inspired materials by artist Sally J. Smith, and in the fall of 2023, a cast of large-scale mythical creatures designed with botanical flair made the Garden their home.

This year, to create the imagined plant forms of *Stranger Plants*, Morgan focused on using upcycled materials and incorporated elements that light up or glow. She drew design inspiration from the evolution of plants species, focusing on those with highly specialized traits that they adapted over millennia to survive. “Carnivorous plants with their odd and intriguing forms already look somewhat alien,” she explains.

Stranger Plants unfolds in The Ramble, a garden space that incorporates engaging plants and unique features to spark curiosity among visitors of all ages, but especially children and families. Throughout the year, The Ramble serves as an informal outdoor classroom during field trips, birthday parties, and drop-in nature-based learning programs. “Since it opened in 2022, The Ramble has blossomed and offers the perfect setting for this exhibition,” says Marissa Gallant, the Garden’s Director of Education. “The plants—real and imagined—surround you as you explore, and the design and features create a fun experience-with something exciting waiting for you around each turn.” Gallant and Morgan hope this will leave visitors feeling like they’ve been transported to a distant galaxy.

While *Stranger Plants* is on display, Garden guests can also enjoy otherworldly educational programs for kids, families, and adults such as a plant slime class, extraterrestrial terrarium building workshop, goth gardening class, and more. On select Friday and Saturday evenings beginning September 20, *Stranger Plants* will be illuminated as part of a ticketed event series called Glowing Wild. With dazzling light displays, Glowing Wild offers a nighttime experience that transforms The Ramble into an otherworldly dreamscape of unusual, illuminated plants and other curiosities. Select ticketed evenings offer experiences for a 21+ or family audience and the opportunity to view the exhibit in a whole new light. Pre-registration is required as the series is expected to sell out. During the weekend of October 11-13, Garden guests can also experience the wonder of the fall season during the Weekend of Wonder. This three-day event is included with general admission and includes opportunities to enjoy the *Stranger Plants* exhibition along with an artisan market, beer garden, crafts, family activities, otherworldly performers, and more.

New England Botanic Garden is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Learn more about *Stranger Plants* and reserve tickets for Glowing Wild online at <https://nebg.org/stranger-plants/>.

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About *New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill*

New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill is a nonprofit organization located at 11 French Drive in Boylston, Massachusetts. A regional destination, the Garden is operated on nearly 200 acres by the Worcester County Horticultural Society, one of the oldest of its kind in the country, and is open to the public for garden viewing, trail walking, educational programs, private events, weddings, exhibitions, and more. This year New England Botanic Garden was voted "Top Botanic Garden in the U.S." by *TravelAwaits*. New England Botanic Garden is an [AAM-accredited](#) museum that includes an irreplaceable collection of plants and creates opportunities for visitors to experience the wonder of plants, learn about the natural world, and make joyful connections. Learn all about New England Botanic Garden including its history, mission, and its staff at www.nebg.org.

Media Contact

Liz Nye, Public Relations Manager

New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill

Office: 508-869-6111 ext. 143 | Mobile: 518-526-3060

lnye@nebg.org