

**Reference Garden Initiative
Report to Board (Lois Girton)
4-11-24**

I. Update to listing:

- A total of 83 USA gardens currently listed on the APS website in the downloadable pdf "Visit a Peony Garden" were contacted by email on March 21 requesting a response of 3 to 4 sentences describing their peony holdings by April 10, 2024.
- No response was received from 56.
- Four gardens asked to be removed from the listing because they did not have peonies.
- Descriptions were received from the following 23.

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| Alaska Botanical Garden | Anchorage, AK |
| Allerton Park & Retreat Center, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign | Monticello, IL |
| Ashland, the Henry Clay Estate | Lexington, KY |
| Belmont Manor & Historic Park | Elkridge, MD |
| Bernheim Arboretum | Clermont, KY |
| Dubuque Arboretum | Dubuque, IA |
| Filoli | Woodside, CA |
| Hamilton College | Clinton, NY |
| Iowa Arboretum & Gardens | Madrid, IA |
| JC Raulston Arboretum | Raleigh, NC |
| Jenson-Olson Arboretum | Juneau, AK |
| Linwood Gardens | Linwood, NY |
| Longwood Gardens | Kennett Square, PA |
| Meadowlark Botanical Gardens | Vienna, VA |
| Minnesota Landscape Arboretum | Chaska, MN |
| Missouri Botanical Garden | St. Louis, MO |
| New York Botanical Garden | Bronx, NY |
| North Dakota State Museum of Art | Grand Forks, ND |
| Olbrich Botanical Gardens | Madison, WI |
| Reiman Gardens | Ames, IA |
| Sisson's Peony Gardens | Rosendale, WI |
| The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens | San Marino, CA |
| University of Michigan | Ann Arbor, MI |

There are several prominent peony gardens from whom no response was received and at least these should be contacted again.

II. References Gardens for the Pilot Project

- Two gardens, Ashland in Lexington, KY and Hamilton College in Clinton, NY used the attached list of requirements and benefits as an application form for consideration as an APS Peony Reference Garden.
- The Dubuque Arboretum and Botanical Garden also indicated they wished to be considered but they have only 69 peonies, a general listing, so will suggest they consider adding to their collection and applying in the future. The free institutional membership was of interest.
- This brings us to six or seven gardens for the Pilot Project (* did not respond to this request):
 - *Old Prairie Town at Ward-Meade Historic Site and Botanical Garden, Topeka, KS
 - *Holden Forests and Garden, Kirkland, OH
 - *Rotary Riverwalk, Beaver Dam, WI
 - University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
 - Ashland, The Henry Clay Estate, Lexington, KY
 - Hamilton College, Clinton, NY
 - Linwood Gardens, Linwood, NY (still checking with the board)