



The **ARNOLD**  
**ARBORETUM**  
of HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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*Images available on request*

## **Lilac Sunday at the Arnold Arboretum – A Celebration of Spring**

**Mother's Day, May 13 10am-3pm**  
*Flowers, family fun, picnicking, and more*

**What:** 110<sup>th</sup> Lilac Sunday at the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University; for full event schedule, [see our website](#).

**When:** Sunday, May 13 from 10:00am to 3:00pm

**Where:** Tours and scheduled event activities take place throughout the northern half of the Arboretum. Closest entrances are the Arborway Gate (125 Arborway, Boston, MA 02130), Forest Hills Gate, Centre Street Gate, and South Street Gate. Food may be brought into the Arboretum for picnicking on this day only; food trucks will not be participating this year. Parking is limited to perimeter streets. Use of public transportation is strongly encouraged.

BOSTON, MA—Pack a picnic...it's Lilac Sunday! For 110 years, families have made the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University a premier destination to welcome the arrival of the flowering season in Boston. The annual observance of Lilac Sunday centers on the Arboretum's outstanding lilac collection at its sensational peak of bloom. In addition to highlighting the beauty and importance of plants to Earth and humanity, Lilac Sunday also honors the Arboretum's 136-year partnership with the City of Boston and its commitment to community education and public engagement with nature. It also offers a great opportunity for the public to explore the Arnold Arboretum landscape, enjoy the sight and scent of hundreds of lilacs, and encounter some of the thousands of other species of trees, shrubs, and vines comprising the Arboretum's living collections.

**The Lilac Collection:** The Arboretum's one-of-a-kind lilac collection numbers some 397 plants representing nearly 179 different kinds of lilacs. Together, they provide a season of color and scent that extends up to six weeks each spring. As in recent years, Lilac Sunday 2018 falls on Mother's Day, making

the occasion even more special and memorable as a family destination. The event is free, though [donations to the Arboretum](#) are appreciated and help sustain this self-supporting public garden. Additional information about lilacs (*Syringa* spp.) and the lilac collection at the Arnold Arboretum is available on the [Arboretum website](#).

**Activities:** Lilac Sunday showcases Boston's unique learning landscape in bloom and offers fun, outdoor explorations for the entire family. Scheduled activities range from themed tours of lilacs and other special plant collections to an array of activities for families and children. Although food will not be provided at the event, picnicking is allowed at the Arboretum on this special day only. Visitors are encouraged to use public transportation. The MBTA Forest Hills station on the Orange Line is nearby, and several bus lines serve the Arboretum area. Parking is limited to available curbside space on streets surrounding the Arboretum perimeter.

Founded in 1872 as the first public arboretum in North America, the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University is a leading center for the study of biodiversity and a treasured Boston landscape open free to the public year round. One of the most comprehensive and best-documented collections of temperate woody plants in the world, the Arboretum promotes the understanding and appreciation of plants through world-class research, horticulture, and educational programs for all ages.

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