



BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Spring Plant Sale Relocates to Vestavia Hills Shopping Center

With more than 85,000 plants for sale, The Gardens' 42nd annual sale is April 15-17

BIRMINGHAM, AL – Birmingham Botanical Gardens' Spring Plant Sale, slated for Friday, April 15 to Sunday, April 17, is moving to the Vestavia Hills Shopping Center beside Red Lobster on Highway 31 in Vestavia Hills. One of the South's largest plant sales, Spring Plant Sale will have more than 85,000 plants available, many starting at just \$2. A record-breaking 7,400 shoppers attended the 2010 Spring Plant Sale, raising more than \$260,000 to benefit The Gardens' educational programs.

The average annual date of frost-free temperatures in Alabama is March 26, making Spring Plant Sale perfectly timed for worry-free planting. Selections include annuals, biannuals, bedding plants, camellias, daylilies, ferns, herbs, hostas, irises, natives, perennials, roses, shrubs, trees, tropical plants, vegetables and more. In addition to the abundance of flora, hundreds of knowledgeable volunteers will be on hand to answer shoppers' every gardening question.

This year's signature plant is *Angelonia*, also known as summer snapdragons. A lover of sun and heat, this rewarding beauty will bloom (18-24") from late-spring to early-winter, taking a brief pause during the peak of summer. Drought-tolerant and easy to grow, *Angelonia* will provide a nice touch of color to any garden.

Spring Plant Sale kicks-off with the Whole Foods Preview Party on Thursday, April 14 from 5-6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$45 in advance (or \$50 at the door), giving guests first pick of the best-looking and rarest plants at the sale, while enjoying food and wine. Partygoers will also take home a free signature plant, *Angelonia*, of their choice. The Members-Only Sale, a complimentary perk for Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens members, follows the Preview Party from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

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SPRING PLANT SALE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Special Events

Preview Party

Thursday, April 14

5-6:30 p.m.

\$45 in advance / \$50 at the door

Members-Only Sale

Thursday, April 14

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Public Sale Hours

Friday, April 15

9-7 p.m.

Saturday, April 16

9-5 p.m.

Sunday, April 17

11-3 p.m.

Sponsors of the 2011 Spring Plant Sale are EGS Commercial Real Estate, Inc., Whole Foods Market, Johnson Sterling, Inc., *Birmingham*, *Birmingham Home & Garden*, ValPak, Buffalo Rock and Leaf & Petal at The Gardens. For more information about Spring Plant Sale, including directions to Vestavia Hills Shopping Center and tickets to the Preview Party, visit www.bbgardens.org/springplantsale or contact Shelly McCarty, special events coordinator, at 205.414.3965 or smccarty@bbgardens.org.

About Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Birmingham Botanical Gardens is Alabama's largest living museum with more than 10,000 different plants in its living collections. The Gardens' 67.5 acres contains more than 25 unique gardens, 30+ works of original outdoor sculpture and miles of serene paths. The Gardens features the largest public horticulture library in the U.S., conservatories, a wildflower garden, two rose gardens, the Southern Living garden, and Japanese Gardens with a traditionally crafted tea house. Education programs run year round and more than 10,000 school children enjoy free science-curriculum based field trips annually. The Gardens is open daily, offering free admission to more than 350,000 yearly visitors.