

THE LOS ANGELES STATE AND COUNTY ARBORETUM, *Arcadia*

ATTENDANCE

A comparison of figures of the past three biennial periods suggest a stabilization in Arboretum attendance within a 3-4% margin. However, the expansion of the garden's public services and attractions can be expected to raise future attendance to a higher level.

1967 - 68	1968 - 69	1969 - 70	1970 - 71
543,124	538,586	572,220	553,829
1,081,710		1,126,049	

DEMONSTRATION HOME GARDENS

The Demonstration Home Gardens received more attention in this biennium than at any time since they were opened in 1958 as a joint project of the California Arboretum Foundation and Sunset Magazine.

The major developments were:

- the gardens enlarged by 4,264 square feet;
- installation of two 9' X 12' climatically-controlled greenhouses;
- construction of a 25-foot-long potting area containing soil bins and cabinets for displays and storage;
- a saran area for shade plants.

These developments have extended the use of the Demonstration Home Gardens by providing an appropriate area for demonstration-lectures on growing plants and for permanent educational displays of aid to students and the public.

Additionally, fixtures were installed (Jan. '71) for night lighting, and the path leading from the rotunda to the Demonstration Home Gardens was paved and landscaped (Feb. '71). Funds for these developments were provided through Urban Beautification, Los Angeles County; the California Arboretum Foundation, Inc.; and Sunset Magazine.

AQUATIC GARDEN

Perhaps the most spectacular garden development in this two year period was the addition of a terraced aquatic garden on top of Tallac Knoll that empties into the Meyberg Waterfall. Approximately three-quarters of an acre overall, the pools are planted with 525 aquatic plants representing 18 genera and 45 plant species and cultivars. The shoreline is planted with ground covers that blend with tree ferns, low palms, shrubs of different colors, and, finally, the stately oaks in the background.

A circulating pump carries the water to pool inlets at various shoreline locations and is designed to maintain water movement and circulation so as to control the growth of algae. A scenic delight for the casual visitor, the garden represents a rare source of information for fanciers of aquatic plants and a useful area for the study of pond ecology. The garden was designed by Lang and Wood, landscape architects, and was made possible by donations to the California Arboretum Foundation, Inc., principally by Mrs. Manfred Meyberg who supplied the major funds for the waterfall.

Construction of paths along the hillside, installation of an automatic sprinkler system, and all of the landscaping was accomplished by the gardening staff.

JUNIPER COLLECTION

As a result of additions planted in March, 1971, this collection now contains most of the junipers available in the nursery trade in Los Angeles County. The present total is 132 plants of 78 cultivars representing 10 species. The collection is the only extensive display of junipers in Southern California.

DISPLAY GREENHOUSES

Two greenhouses, valued at \$5,655, were donated through the California Arboretum Foundation. One, 14' X 12', was placed under the shade of two oaks adjoining the juniper collection. Completed June 15, 1971, it houses a unique collection of bromeliads.

The other, 30' X 32', was installed in the nursery area June 1, 1971. It will house a \$1,500 fern collection.

WEATHER

The Plant Records Unit serves as an official United States Cooperative Weather Bureau, recording data for the benefit of the Fruit Frost Warning Service of San Gabriel Valley and for Arboretum horticulturists.

Data for the weather season, Oct. 1 to Sept. 30:

	1969-70	1970-71
Lowest temperature	26° - Dec. 30, 1969	25° - Jan. 2-3, 1970 and Dec. 14, 1971
Highest temperature	106° - July 4, 1970	110° - Sept. 12-13, 1971
Total days of rainfall	24 days	29 days
Heaviest monthly rainfall	March - 6.27 in.	December - 6.53 in.
Yearly rainfall	13.99	15.41

Whereas the significant weather story of the previous Biennial Report had to do with periods of destructive rainfall, this report deals with another element of destruction — wind. The Arboretum, along with the rest of Southern California, experienced violent Santa Ana winds on several occasions. On December 26, 1969, a wind of gale dimensions (70 mph) blew over the Arboretum's famous 200-year-old "Tarzan" oak, and whipped a normally easily-controlled fire into a conflagration that destroyed or charred numerous trees, mostly palms. During December 7 and 8, 1971, gale winds knocked down trees and the weather station. On February 9, 1971, the Arboretum survived with relatively little damage an earthquake that registered 6.5 on the Richter scale. An earthquake that occurred on September 12, 1970, measured 5.5 on the Richter scale and caused no damage.

PLANT INTRODUCTIONS — *Vital to Southern California*

If it were not for the introduction of plants from other parts of the world — and adequate irrigation to sustain them — most of Southern California's urban landscape would be drab and barren. Probably 99% of the flowering trees and shrubs used in the Los Angeles landscape are introduced from other parts of the world. As a consequence, the Department's plant introduction and plant collection programs are given top priority among its many programs.

So far, the Department has introduced 58 exotic plants (November 1957 - August 1971) to the Southern California nursery trade. Listed below are another 16 plants currently being developed and tested for their potential introduction to the area.

In selecting these and other potential plant introductions, esthetic values are by no means the only consideration. Relative resistance to smog, insects, and disease are equally important factors requiring laboratory and field analysis on the one hand, and on the other, the development of new varieties through genetic selection and through cloning and other horticultural practices.

Mass plantings, especially along roadways, of selected items of horticultural value will be carried out extensively at the Arboretum, Descanso Gardens, and South Coast Botanic Garden.

Potential plant introductions:

Aesculus indica
Agapanthus hybrid 'Mood Indigo'
Brachysema lanceolatum
Bucklandia populnea
Callistemon pachyphyllus viridis

Camellias:

'LASCA Beauty'
'Dr. Clifford Parks'

Chorisia speciosa (clonal selection)
Dodonaea microzyga
E. pauciflora
Hymenosporum flavum (clonal selection)
Kunzea sericea
Leptospermum scoparium 'Boscawenii'
Markhamia lutea
Stigmaphyllon affine
Viburnum rigidum

PLANT RECORDS — *Clearing house for Arboretum plants and seed.*

At the time of this report, there are 7,420 accessions, representing 168 families, 1,062 genera, 3,537 species, and 1,677 varieties of plants in the field.

Looking into the future, changes can be expected not so much in figures but in the character of the plants they represent. An active seed exchange program with foreign botanic gardens, genetic research, and the Department's plant introduction program will combine to replace some species and many more varieties.

In this biennium, data cards covering field collections at the Arboretum were microfilmed and sent to the plant Records Center of the American Horticultural Society in Lima, Pennsylvania, there to be filed along with the data cards of most of the botanic gardens in the United States, thus contributing to an invaluable pool of information readily available to interested persons all over the world.

DESCANSO GARDENS, *La Canada*

ATTENDANCE

1967 - 68	1968 - 69	1969 - 70	1970 - 71
500,104	391,119	504,224	447,417
891,223		951,641	

NEW GARDENS

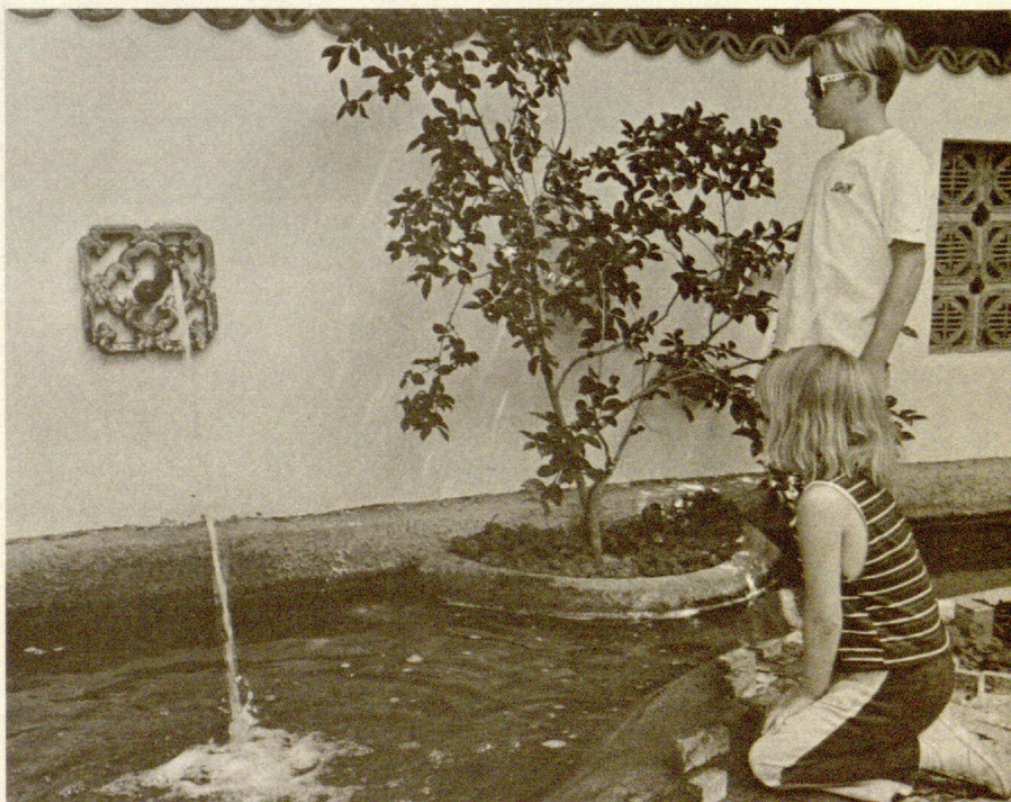
Four new gardens were developed in this biennium:

the Chinese Garden north of the Hospitality House, built through a donation of \$10,000 by the John J. Howard family which also donated ancient, ornamental tiles;

an Azalea Garden donated by the Fay F. Wilcox family;

a garden of 60 South African and Australian proteas, donated and planted by Dr. Cecil Eschelman;

a third Children's Garden. Two, already in operation, are for handicapped children; the third was provided for children with special problems of La Crescenta schools.



A corner of the Chinese Garden



Dimond, Donald S. 1961. "The Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, Arcadia." *Biennial report* 1969-71, 2-5.

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