

Kaleidoscope Of Philadelphia Flower Show

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PHILADELPHIA (Philadelphia Co.) — Six acres of flowers flaunted a touch of spring for those who made it to the Philadelphia Flower Show before the record-setting blizzard caused the week-long event to close two days early.

Early figures revealed that the blizzard whited out attendance by about 40,000 persons. But those who made it to the Show were entranced by the beauty of 55 elaborate landscaping displays and 1,700 individual entries.

The theme "Preserving the Past, Presenting the Future," was evident at the Philadelphia Civic Center where displays blended the flowers of the past with environmentally responsible gardening. Proper care of shrubs, plants and trees was emphasized to maintain the past ecology. Bartlett Tree Experts taught visitors the art of pruning. "Pruning trees is like raising children; providing early directions results in fewer problems as the plant matures. Pruning young trees eliminates weak growth to provide a strong basis for future development."

Shrubs should be thinned to control size and maintain their natural shape, but not sheared.

For the more than 150,000 visitors at the Show, education was of prime interest. Several displays

emphasized that the secret to a healthy lawn in a safe environment lies in working with nature.

A green lawn often requires over-fertilized, energy consuming practices that waste water and fill up landfills with grass clippings.

Soil should be tested periodically to determine the right fertilizer, compost, and services needed to keep your lawn healthy.

Grass type should be a variety that is well-adapted to the area where it is planted. It will grow better and resist pests and diseases better. Mowing high (2½ -3½ -inches) and more often will produce healthier grass with fewer pest problems.

Flowers, shrubs, and trees in the displays are marked so that visitors can easily identify plants they may want to include in their home gardening.

Free lectures and demonstrations on gardening, flower arranging, floral photography, and houseplant care were scheduled for each day.

The crowds packed the area where more than 100 vendors sold everything from floral tape to glass-enclosed decks.

Plan to attend the 1994 Philadelphia Flower Show scheduled for March 6-13. For more information, contact the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 325 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777.



Landscaping displays such as this one created by McNaughton's Nurseries Inc. of New Jersey show how flowers, shrubs, and trees enhance the beauty of the house.



Water gardening shows plants suited for growing in water and around water.



Jack's eyeview of Jack and the Beanstalk by Pennsylvania Nurseyman's shows an effective use of plants.



Miniature hollyhocks



The "growing swan" swims contently in a pool of water.



This arrangement shows how recycling an old milk can for a container of fresh flowers preserves the past with the present.



The tall trees that tower in the background make it difficult to perceive that the Philadelphia Flower Show is really held inside the Civic Center.