

Seasonal features at Kew

There is always something of interest at Kew, from spring flowers, to bluebells, to roses, to autumn colour. Below are dates and places where you can see what is of most interest in the Gardens at the time you visit. These dates may vary by up to three weeks due to climatic conditions so it is always best to phone and check before you visit if there is something specific you wish to see.

January to February

Hellebores at the Order Beds and the Ruined Arch

Snowdrops (*Galanthus*) in the Rock Garden and in the Queen's Cottage Grounds

Winter Aconites (*Eranthis hyemalis*) near Kew Palace

Wintersweet (*Chimonanthus*)

Witch Hazels (*Hamamelis*) by King William's Temple

Cornelian Cherry (*Cornus mas*)

Clematis cirrhosa on the Rock Garden wall

Snowdrops



March to April

Crocuses, particularly between Victoria Gate and King William's Temple

Camellias between Cumberland Gate and the Marianne North Gallery

Forsythia

Daffodils (*Narcissus*) especially along the Broad Walk

Spring bedding at the front of the Palm House and its surrounds

April to May

Flowering cherries (*Prunus*)

Crab apples (*Malus*)

Magnolias

Lilacs (*Syringa*) near White Peaks Café

Wisteria near the Secluded Garden

Spring bedding at the front of the Palm House

Trilliums and other spring flowers in the Woodland Garden

May to June

Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) in the Queen's Cottage Grounds

Native wildflowers in long grass areas

Horse Chestnuts (*Aesculus*)

Rhododendrons including Azaleas



Magnolia heptapeta

Himalayan Blue Poppies (*Meconopsis betonicifolia*) in the Woodland Garden

Queen's Garden

Spring flowering annual grasses in the Grass Garden

June to July

Rock Garden

Mock Oranges (*Philadelphus*) near the Pagoda

Tulip Trees (*Liriodendron*)

Mediterranean plants around King William's Temple

Camassia along Riverside Walk

July to September

Herbaceous borders including the Secluded Garden, Duke's Garden and Queen's Garden

Grass Garden

Rose Garden

Summer bedding in front of the Palm House

Planters along the Broad Walk

Waterlilies in the Aquatic Garden

Hibiscus

Hydrangeas in the Woodland Glade

Indian Bean Trees (*Catalpa*)

Succulents and tropical bedding at either end of the Princess of Wales Conservatory

September to October

Belladonna Lilies (*Amaryllis belladonna*)

Anemone 'September Charm' in the Secluded Garden

Toad Lily (*Tricyrtis*) in the Woodland Garden

Gaultheria mucronata

Euonymus europaea

Firethorn (*Pyracantha*)

Cotoneasters on the Canal Beds

Autumn crocus (*Colchicum*) along Holly Walk

October to November

Autumn colour including:

Grass Garden

Liquidambar trees along the Broad Walk

Prunus

Acers at the Japanese Garden

November to December

Fruiting trees and shrubs, winter bark

Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus unedo*) in the Heather Garden and Secluded Garden

Winter flowering cherries (*Prunus*) near the Temperate House

Rubus cockburnianus in the Canal Beds

Prunus serrula

Acer griseum near Oxenhouse Gate and also the Princess of Wales Conservatory

Display Glasshouses

As well as looking for seasonal interest outside in the gardens, be sure to visit the glasshouses for all-year-round interest and flowerings of more unusual and non-hardy plants.

The Princess of Wales Conservatory is a large multi-environment glasshouse. It incorporates plants from the wet and dry tropics including mangrove swamp and cloud forest as well as specialist collections of bromeliads, carnivorous plants, ferns, orchids, cacti, succulent plants and the giant waterlilies in the summer. The north entrance to the Conservatory is a special display area where seasonal festivals are celebrated and original displays of bedding or themed plantings are created.

The Davies Alpine House is at its best from February to the end of April. Special features include refrigerated beds for arctic and tropical montane plants. Alpine plants are shown in an ever changing display as new plants are brought into the house from the main collection when at their peak.

The Palm House displays plants from the tropical rainforest, including palms, climbers and epiphytes. Among the economic plants on display are Banana (*Musa*), Rubber (*Hevea*), Cotton (*Gossypium*), Coffee (*Coffea*) and Cocoa (*Theobroma cacao*). In its basement is the Marine Display, which shows algae and

aquatic plants from tropical and temperate coasts. These tanks also house a rainbow of tropical fish!

In the Waterlily House, tropical climbing plants surround a pool of waterlilies and other aquatic plants. It is at its best from June to October, after which it houses a fantastic pumpkin and squash display for the Autumn Festival.

The Temperate House displays subtropical and warm temperate plants. Plants include the winter flowering Cape Heaths (*Erica*), Camellias, Rhododendrons from the mountains of Borneo and New Guinea, and the Chilean Wine Palm (*Jubaea chilensis*) which was raised from seed in 1846. The central section of this glasshouse contains a range of economic plants such as various citrus trees, Jojoba (*Simmondsia chinensis*), Tea (*Camellia sinensis*) and Quinine (*Cinchona pubescens*).



Crocus vernus



Pumpkins and squash display in the Waterlily House



The Grass Garden



Giant waterlilies in the Princess of Wales Conservatory