

VILNIUS UNIVERSITY  
*Botanical Garden*  
in KAIRĖNAI





Sculpture Fertility (A. G. Gaberi, Slovenia)



Museum of Lithuanian Nature, the Labyrinth and the Fountain



Educational Vegetable Garden

## VU Botanical Garden Map:

**1.** Laboratory, administration, sightseeing platform **2.** The old estate stables, 19th century, now Museum **3.** The old estate mill, 19th century, now Information Center and café **4.** The necropolis barrows, 4th–5th centuries **5.** The Rhododendron Garden **6.** The Japanese Garden **7.** The restored estate fountain **8.** The site of the second manor house, 19th century **9.** The roses **10.** The Kairénai estate park **11.** The site of the first manor house, 16th–17th centuries **12.** European Union Ring **13.** The spring **14.** The lilacs and crabapples **15.** Herbal ornamental plants



**16.** Aromatic, medicine, culinary herbs and spices **17.** The riding area **18.** The estate barn, 19th century **19.** Phytoremediation plants and GVT summerhouse **20.** Woody plants **21.** "The Straw" summerhouse **22.** The summerhouse "On the Hill" **23.** The summerhouse "At the Island" **24.** The picnic area and the fireplace **25.** Barefooted trail **26.** Tickets, WC **27.** Dry slope habitat **28.** Pond habitat **29.** Sculpture *Fertility* (A.G. Gaberi, Slovenia) **30.** Broadleaf forest habitat, Indigenous Flora trail **31.** Pinewood forest habitat **32.** Wetland forest habitat **33.** Overgrown pond habitat **34.** Greenhouse



## VU Botanical Garden in Kairėnai – 191,5 ha

- P** - The most visited area of the Botanical Garden (around 30ha)
- S** - Pomological Collections (guided tours only)
- A** - Arboretum

### Information signs:



Herbaceous ornamental plants



Woody plants



Arboretum



Native flora



Information centre



Museum



Café



Spring



Picnic area



Horse riding place



Toilets



Exit

Vilnius University Botanical Garden (VUBG) is the largest botanical garden in Lithuania (total area 199ha) housing more than 10,600 different plant species and cultivars; most numerous collections include those of rhododendrons, lilacs, lianas, peonies, dahlias and bulbous plants. 468 species of indigenous Lithuanian flora are found in the Garden, as well as over 120 native vertebrate species, a quarter of them being birds. Moreover, Botanical Garden is a site of cultural heritage with burial grounds dating back to 4th – 5th century, 19th century Estate buildings, landscape garden and ponds. Buildings and the garden are used as venue for various events, performances and art exhibitions. In addition, visitors are offered a variety of attractions including horse riding facilities and horse-drawn carriage rides.

## FOUR LOCATIONS

Since it was founded in 1781 due to historical circumstances VUBG had changed its location four times.

Courtyard of the Medical College: First botanical garden was established by Professor J.E. Gilibert in 1781, in the



Courtyard of the Medical College  
1781 - 1799



Botanical Garden in Sereikiškės,  
1799 - 1842



Botanical Garden in Vingis, since  
1919



Botanical Garden in Kairėnai, since  
1974

heart of Vilnius old town (nowadays - 22 Pilies st). Over 500 taxa of different plants were grown outdoors and in the small greenhouse.

Botanical Garden in Sereikiškės (1799 - 1842): More than 25 years it was headed by Professor S.B. Jundzill. During these years catalogues of plants and seeds had been published, greenhouses were built and more than 7,000 taxa of plants were collected. This garden was eliminated in 1842.

Botanical Garden in Vingis, since 1919: Botanical Garden was successfully re-established in new location of Vingis Estate. There were 4,600 taxa of different plants collected. In 1975 this garden was reorganized to the division of plant systematics and geography.

Botanical Garden in Kairėnai, since 1974: In 1974 Botanical Garden was expanded to the former Kairėnai Estate with an area of 150 ha. Nowadays, the Garden covers territory of 191.5 ha and owns more than 10,600 taxa of different plants.



## Lower terrace with burial grounds and Estate Household Buildings

Based on archaeological findings from burial grounds, the area of Kairėnai Estate has been inhabited as early as 4th - 5th century AD. Barrow archaeological site is marked with a sculpture *Perkūnas' Oak (Perkūno Ažuolas)*.

Large and widely spaced 19th century estate buildings are protected architectural heritage: stables (now Museum) and mill (now Visitor information centre and Café) have traits of Romanticism; coach house (now Toilets), housekeeper and stableman's houses and barn are examples of folk architecture.



4th - 5th century burial ground



Museum, former estate stables, 19th cent.



Information centre, former estate mill, 19th cent.



## NATIVE HABITATS

In VUBG territory, variety of broadleaf and conifer forests, dry, mesic and wet grasslands, coastal and other plants grow naturally. Here grows at least 468 taxa of different plants, which belong to 82 different plant families; one can find poisonous, medicinal, fragrant and plants that have dyeing features. All plants have labels, which contain information of their names and characteristics. Throughout the Garden, habitats are marked with special signs and pointers. 120 species of vertebrates are known to dwell in the Garden: 7 species of fishes, 6 amphibians, 1 reptile, 30 mammal species and 76 species of birds.





## DRY SLOPE HABITAT

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Usual plants here are small and warm-loving with narrow and threadlike, covered in tiny grey hairs or finely divided leaves. Typical examples include Hare's foot Clover, Mouse-ear Hawkweed, Narrow-leaf Meadow-grass, Eastern Pasque flower, Spiked Speedwell, and Wild Thyme. Other plants differently adapted to drought also can be found: these are succulent plants, such as Goldmoss, Tasteless and other stonecrops, storing water in thickened leaves and stems.







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## POND HABITAT



On the coast present are plants characteristic of wetland forests and marshes, for example, Bittersweet, Bugleweed, Yellow iris, Tufted Loosestrife, False Bristly Sedge, and Marsh Skullcap. Nearest to the water, plants such as European bur-reed, Water Manna grass, Slender Spike-rush, and Common Waterplantain are adapted to growing both on land and submerged. Further offshore reeds, bulrushes and relatives thrive, for example, Common Bulrush and Common Club-rush. Further still, true water plants start to appear: Water Knotweed, Floating Pondweed, Dwarf and Yellow water-lilies. Some species, like Common water moss and algal class Charophyceae attach to the bottom and grow underwater. Pond is also inhabited by various fish: Bitterlings, Bleaks, Crucian carps, Grass carps, Prussian carps, Gudgeons, Moderlieschens, Perches, and Roaches can be found.





## BROADLEAF FOREST HABITAT

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A broadleaf forest is typically divided into five layers. Topmost layer is formed by the canopies of the tallest trees, usually Common Oak and Small-leaved Lime. Below grows rowan, while lower shrub layer consists of hazel, honeysuckle and European Spindle among others. Underneath tree canopies herbaceous plants of various sizes appear: tall (up to 80 cm) ground-elders and Giant Fescue; medium height (up to 30 cm) Suffolk Lungwort; and small (up to 10 cm) Asarabaccas, Kidneyworts and in early spring flowering and soon withering Wood and Yellow anemones, and Lesser celandines. In the evenings broadleaf forest and the old Park becomes a great place to watch bats; Brown Long-eared Bat, Common Noctule, Daubenton's Bat, Northern Bat, and Nathusius' Pipistrelle also can be spotted here.





## 5 RHODODENDRON GARDEN

This garden houses extensive and very attractive rhododendron collection. Out of more than 120 species of Rhododendrons half of them came from China and Japan, while the origin of the rest is North America, Europe, Himalayas, and North East Asia.



Moreover, there are a lot of other plants like primrose, ivy, pachysandra etc. On the artificial rocky slopes of the Garden flourish dwarf and evergreen plants of family Ericaceae, for example, *Cassiope*, Common Heather, heaths, Spike Heath and wintergreens. In Autumn, as much as 170 different species of Heathers start to blossom in different colours.



The exposition is interspersed with representatives of other families adapted to similar ecological conditions, for instance: maple trees, winter hazel hydrangea and others. Main Garden boasts 250 cultivars of evergreen, semi-evergreen, and deciduous rhododendrons. Flowering starts as early as April, reaching the peak in late May to early June. In the southern corner of the pine forest, Rhododendron Garden adjoins Japanese Garden.



## JAPANESE GARDEN

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In 2003 with the assistance of Japanese embassy in Lithuania VUBG started collaboration with landscape designers Mr. Hiroshi Tsunoda and Mr. Hajime Watanabe. After a close investigation of the area, they presented the VUBG with a project of the Japanese Garden. According to the plan in an area of 0.5 ha, *Edo* period-style garden was created. Project realization was funded by Vilnius city municipality, Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania and Government of the Republic of Lithuania. In 2004-2007, 500 tonnes of boulders were brought to the Garden, some of them were collected in the Garden, others (including the biggest boulders weighing from 5 to 25 tonnes) donated by Ltd. "Trakų Akmuo" and Anykščiai Forest Enterprise.

In 2008-2009 the stones were laid out creating the structure of the Japanese Garden. Watercourse, pond with an



island and waterfall were created; pathways were built out of these boulders. In 2010 the mini-architectural accents were added to the Garden (pavilion and the entrance gate) and Rhododendrons of 40 different cultivars (Japanese azaleas), maple trees, yew-trees, box-trees, tuiyons and a lot of others were planted here. On the steep slopes in the north of the Garden grows various kinds of mosses.



### Upper terrace with manor house ruins, landscape garden and ponds

Kairėnai Estate dates back to 1545. From 1596 to 1691 ruled by noblemen Isaikovskiai, Estate had manor house of Renaissance architecture built and regular garden created. The manor house had two fortified towers. This entire complex was destroyed around 1655. Today this place can be recognized only by a few stones; it is marked with number **11** in the map.

Later the estate was owned by Sapięga family, and during this time it was leased or mortgaged. In 1759 noblemen Lopacinskių took over the ownership of the estate and under their rule Kairėnai slowly became a well maintained and significant estate.





Golden age of Kairėnai estate is usually related to a woman named Dorotėja Marikonytė- Lopacinskienė, who lived here during the period 1817-1857. After the big fire which occurred in the beginning of 19th century, temporary wooden manor was built, **8**. One of the manor rooms had a little pool inside of it; in front of the palace the fountain was built (restored in 2004) **7**; and viewing hill with the flowerbeds was set up near the house.

The garden acquired traits of romanticism; it was enlivened with summer theatre stage and pavilion on the islet of the pond.

Kairėnai was an important cultural centre of Vilnius society. Housing amateur theatre and orchestra, boasting large book collection, the Estate attracted famous writers and other



influential figures of the time, such as: T. Zanas, A. E. Odinecas, J. Čiulda, J. Mianovskis, A. Bonoldi. However, after the death of Mrs Lopacinskienė the Estate was neglected once again. It was purchased by Juozapas Tiškevičius in 1870, only to change hands once again in 1911 becoming a property of merchant Stolypin. Later the Estate was bought by the state as a site for a psych neurological hospital, which operated until 1974.



Today the garden is characterized by picturesque tree compositions and intimate relationship between vegetation and water. Although landscape garden features were developed in the 19th century, the orderly terraced layout is a relic of the Renaissance epoch, some of it still preserved to this day.



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## ROSE GARDEN

The project of modern shrub rose display in the park was prepared by landscape architect D. Juchnevičiūtė in 1981. Building of the collection was started in 1996 and was supported by American organization *ECOLOGIA*, Vilnius city Municipality and other sponsors. The shrub roses are usually tall, low-maintenance, cold – hardy and diseases resistant, and thus well-suited for growing in gardens and other public areas.



Collection consists of a few wild rose species and about 140 cultivars from Poland, Latvia, Finland and other countries. In addition, cultivars of a number of modern shrub roses (39 cultivars), Old Garden roses (75 cultivars), Floribunda – Roses (5 cultivars) and hybrids of *Rugosa* Rose (18 cultivars) are grown here too.





## COLLECTION OF THE LILACS

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This collection contains more than 120 species, subspecies, varieties and cultivars of lilacs. Nearly 90 of these are cultivars of Common Lilac; the rest, flowering several weeks later (*Syringa reflexa*, *Syringa villosa*, hairy lilac, Chinese lilac and others) and are distinguished by their bright colours and abundance of flowers. Second half of May is the best time to visit this part of the VUBG to enjoy flowering of lilacs to its fullest.



## OVERGROWN POND HABITAT

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This particular pond is teeming with Pool Frogs; other species observed include various newts, Common Frogs, Moor Frogs and toads. The Pond is also a welcoming home to a rush, cyperus, spike – rush and sedge.







## 15 HERBACEOUS ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

Herbaceous ornamental plants cover area of 8 ha; here flowering of more than 3,000 plant species, cultivars and hybrids, 500 of which were created by Lithuanian plant breeders, can be enjoyed from early spring to the beginning of autumn. Dotted around the landscape garden, along the banks of the ponds and near the grasslands of indigenous species various extensive collections can be found: 270 species and cultivars of peonies (0,5ha); 300 species and cultivars of dahlia (0,6ha); 280 species and cultivars of bulbous plants, including about 180 of tulips; other perennial flowers, such as daylilies (460 species and cultivars); 150 species and cultivars of gladiolus, and around 80 species and cultivars of *Astilbe*.



Hellebores, winter aconites, Japanese spurges and cowslips are among the first to bloom in the spring; they are closely followed by snowdrops, hyacinths, crocuses, alisons, Leopard's Bane, herbaceous winkles, daffodils, blue-bells, glory-of-the-snow, pasque-flowers, grape-hyacinths; these are later followed by dicentras, garlics, fritillaries, forget-me-not, convallarias, anemones, European daisies, tulips, saxifrages, irises etc. Spring flowers



do not bloom for long time, but their blossoms are very attractive.

The ones to look for in summer include bellflowers, bergamots, Blazing stars, carnations, columbines, cranesbills, daylilies, Echinacea, foxgloves, foxtail lilies, garden phloxes, globeflowers, *Gypsophila*, hollyhocks, *Hosta*, irises, larkspurs, Leopard plants, lilies, loosestrifes, lupines, marigolds, montbretias, nasturtiums, peonies, phloxes, platycodons, poppies, pot marigolds, sages, snapdragons, speedwells, spider flowers, spiderworts, stocks, sunflow-



ers, torch lilies, verbenas, and yarrows to name a few. Flowers of dahlias, cornflags, goldenrods, coneflowers, sneezweeds and stonecorps mark the descent of autumn, while asters, marigolds and autumn crocuses are among the last ones to bloom in the Garden before winter.



## 20 COLLECTION OF WOODY PLANTS

About 900 species and cultivars of woody plants are housed in this area (trees, bushes, shrubs and semi-shrubs). Here accrue 402 species and cultivars of conifers; they belong to 3 different families and 6 genera. 21 representatives of ornamental bushes bloom in decorative flowers and are covered with colourful leaves. The richest in species and cultivars among these genera are: shrubby cinquefoils, barberries, spireas, box-trees and golden bells. The collection of lianas includes 73 different species which belong to 17 genera, 13 families and 127 species and cultivars. The richest in number of species and cultivars are: clematis, wines, Virginia creepers, honeysuckles and bittersweets. Visitors also have an opportunity to see other heat-resistant and cold-hardy species of lianas suitable for vertical green constructions. In alpine plants collection grows dwarf woody plants, semi-shrubs and shrubs. 301 taxa of plants that belong to 42 families and 119 genera can be found here, sun roses, thymes and lavenders are among the richest in abundance of species and cultivars.

In April, even before the burst of leaves, Bog Myrtles,



Forsythias, Kobushi Magnolias, daphnes, *Paxistima* have already come into flower.

Lianas, plants of family *Rosaceae* (apple trees, amelanchieres and cotoneasters), mahonias, walnuts, hophornbeams and Buffalo berries bloom in May.

June is in particular overwhelming with blooming of: beautybushes, clematises, honeysuckles, laburnums, various species and cultivars of mock-oranges, viburnums, as well as characteristic species of alpine flora including brooms and their relatives, *Globularia* species, lavenders, rock-roses, speedwells, and thymes. In addition, plants, such as beeches, dogwoods, elders, meadowsweets, spindles, weigelies and others, characterized by eye-catching colourful leaves, come into being around this time as well.



Cinquefoils start to flower in July and their flowers can be appreciated until the very autumn frosts. High summer is marked by the blooming of various species of *Clematis*, hydrangeas, meadowsweets, common sages, spikenards, sweet shrubs, and *Vincetoxicum* among others, as well as the fruit bearing of mulberry trees.

More species of *Clematis* together with *Clethra* come into flower in August; fruits of various species including *Actinidia*, barberries, bittersweets, bladdernuts, catalpas, cotoneasters, hawthorns, hoptrees, horse-chestnuts, rowans, and spindles reach maturity. In September witch-hazels, *Clematis* of East Asia, and snowberries flower, and leaves of deciduous plants begin to change their colour – a true sign of the end of the summer. About 200 species of trees and shrubs grow in the area of 60 ha of the Arboretum, which is located about 100 m to the south west of Kairénai Estate landscape garden.





## 19 EXHIBITION OF SOIL CLEANING PLANTS

There are four beds of plants that are known for stimulation of soil's self-cleaning. The main role of these plants is to improve soil's aeration's quality and to create a welcoming environment for microbes to live. These plants accelerate soil's self-cleaning from toxic materials, oil products, non-toxic materials and other pollutants. Mostly, these are natural flora plants, although some of the cultural plants, for instance vegetables or spices also have the self-cleaning stimulation effect for soil.

These garden-beds host 58 species of indigenous flora representatives, 11 vegetable species, barley mutants, sun-flowers and maize.





## EVENTS

Every year at the VUBG a number of events take place; some of them have already become traditional being held from year to year. On 22 May International Day for Biological Diversity is celebrated all over the world; the purpose of this day is to introduce general public to enormous diversity of life on Earth. Since 2001 this day has been celebrated in Lithuania; VUBG in collaboration with Lithuanian Ministry of Environment in 2002 started to organize an annual event for this occasion (it include lectures, educational tours, art exhibits and concerts, etc.).



VUBG together with Lithuanian Association of Floriculturists, twice a year (in May and September) organizes fair called „Flowers of Lithuania“.



June starts with series of concerts held in VUBG throughout the summer till September. Almost every Sunday the Garden is filled with music sounds of orchestras and beautiful vocal songs. *Flora Jazz*, *Kristupas festival* and *Bards festival* concerts take place here. During the concerts visitors can enter the Garden only with concert tickets.



In September the Garden invites *Researchers' Night*, where visitors can attempt to clone plants in the lab, evaluate the taste of fruits and berries, identify and describe various plants.



Traditionally, in mid-September visitors are welcome to explore large land art exhibition where artists from different fields present their works. Displayed pieces are created right at VUBG using natural and other materials; some of them remain at the Garden as a decorative element after the exhibition is over. The purpose of these exhibits is to unite art and nature, artist and spectator, and explore the relationships between them. More information: [www.facebook.com/LandArt.lt](http://www.facebook.com/LandArt.lt)



From May to November different art exhibitions are held at the Museum of Nature every month. All information about the events taking place at VUBG can be found at [www.botanikos-sodas.vu.lt](http://www.botanikos-sodas.vu.lt)

### Additional facilities (fee applies):

excursion with the guide; rent of pavilions (21, 22, 23, 19), picnic area 24, booking and rent of conference and ball rooms (2, 3); there is a possibility to register your marriage at the VUBG too as well as rent a place for celebration (starting from 50 guests), for more information and registration please contact by phone: +370 5 2193139



Horseback riding, pony ride, ride in a carriage. Booking and information: +370 6 8616243.





## Vilnius University Botanical Garden

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### VISITOR INFORMATION

#### Opening times:

May to October the Garden is open daily: 10am – 8pm  
November to April open Mondays to Fridays: 9am – 3pm  
Closed on public holidays

#### Admission:

Concessions for groups, students, OAPs and disabled  
Monthly and yearly tickets are available

#### Additional facilities (fee applies)

Guide-led tours in English (fee applies),  
Reservation and hire of gazebos, picnic area, and indoor  
premises, Location hire for weddings and large group  
parties, booking and information +37052193139  
Horse ride, pony ride, ride in a carriage, booking and  
information +37068616243

Restaurant / Café

„AULA Kairėnų malūnas“ 30.

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Sponsors:

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