



Date: March 9, 2009

For Immediate Release

**LIMIT LANDFILL WASTE AND RECYCLE PLASTIC GARDEN POTS AND TRAYS
AT THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
*2009 Plastic Pot Recycling Program Begins on National Earth Day***

- WHAT:** Plastic Pot Recycling
WHEN: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, Apr. 22 through Sept. 30
WHERE: Monsanto Center at the Missouri Botanical Garden, 4500 Shaw Blvd at Vandeventer; visit Web site for satellite collection locations
SPONSORS: Missouri Botanical Garden; St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District; Missouri Department of Natural Resources; Environmental Improvement and Energy Resource Authority; Monrovia Growers, Inc.
INFO: www.plasticpotrecycling.org ; (314) 577-9400, 1 (800) 642-8842 toll free

(ST. LOUIS): The Plastic Pot Recycling collection at the Missouri Botanical Garden opens for the season on National Earth Day! Help reduce the amount of horticultural waste in landfills by recycling your plastic garden pots, polystyrene cell packs and trays at the Missouri Botanical Garden. This year, Plastic Pot Recycling will be offered daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Apr. 22 through Sept. 30.

The Missouri Botanical Garden operates the most extensive public garden recycling program in the nation. With the addition of a record 158,000 pounds of horticultural waste in 2008, the Garden's Plastic Pot Recycling program has saved over 680,000 pounds, or 340 tons, of plastic garden pots, cell packs and trays from landfills to date.

“The growth of this program has been outstanding, and it's apparent that the passion gardeners have for recycling their plastic containers drives this effort forward,” said program

(over)

ADD ONE: Plastic Pot Recycling

founder and organizer Dr. Steven Cline, manager of the Garden's William T. Kemper Center for Home Gardening. "Providing an alternative to pitching pots by offering a program to recycle them has sparked a sense of loyalty to doing the right thing."

Horticulture plastic will be accepted at the Garden's main collection facility located at the west parking lot of the Monsanto Center, 4500 Shaw Blvd. at the corner of Vandeventer. The collection is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Apr. 22 through Sept. 30. Ten area garden centers will serve as satellite collection sites in 2009. Bowood Farms, Crabapple Cove Nursery, Garden Heights Nursery, Greenscape Gardens, Hartke Nursery, Rolling Ridge Garden Center, Summerwinds at Timber Creek Nursery, Sunset Plantland Nursery, Thies Farm & Greenhouse (North Hanley), and University Gardens will each collect horticultural plastic during their normal business hours from Apr. 22 through Sept. 30. Visit the Garden's Web site for location information.

Horticultural plastic accepted includes cell packs, trays, pots of all sizes and hanging baskets. Please shake soil and rocks out of containers and remove all metal hangers, rings or other foreign materials – no plastic bags or clay pots are accepted. Separate #6 plastic cell packs and trays from #2 and #5 plastic pots into the recycling trailers. Garden edging, plastic sheeting materials and food plastic will not be accepted.

Plastic is granulated on-site into chips that are easily transported for recycling. Retaining wall ties and timbers made from the plastic regrind are sold back to consumers for use in landscaping projects. The plastic timbers are water and pest resistant and can be cut and drilled similar to wooden lumber. They outlast traditional wooden railroad ties that have a lifespan of only ten to 15 years.

Proceeds from the sale of plastic timbers are used to fund future collections. Grants from the St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Environmental Improvement and Energy Resource Authority, and California-based Monrovia Growers also support the program.

For more information on the Garden's Plastic Pot Recycling program, visit the Web site www.plasticpotrecycling.org call (314) 577-9561. For more information on purchasing plastic landscape timbers, call the Kemper Center at (314) 577-9441.

(more)

ADD TWO: Plastic Pot Recycling

The Missouri Botanical Garden is the oldest continually operating botanical garden in the nation, celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2009. *Missouri Botanical Garden: Green for 150 Years*.

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NOTE: A digital color image is available by request. Download media materials at www.mobot.org/press.

The Missouri Botanical Garden's mission is "to discover and share knowledge about plants and their environment, in order to preserve and enrich life." Today, 150 years after opening, the Missouri Botanical Garden is a National Historic Landmark and a center for science, conservation, education and horticultural display. *Missouri Botanical Garden: Green for 150 Years*.