



A little history

The collection is a relatively young one: the Arboretum was started in 1985 by Philippe de Spoelberch on some existing woodlands and meadows. Plants were purchased from specialized nurseries and further travels in the temperate forests of the world and exchange of seed and young plants with botanical institutions, provide for a variety of material from wild collected sources. Twenty years later, in 2005, he decided to establish a foundation which would allow for the future of the collection and its opening to the public. In the meantime, under the management of the Arboretum team, it has become a world botanical institution with some 2.200 species and cultivated

A centre for study and information

A visit to the Arboretum will surely allow you to enjoy the beauty of the landscape and setting of woody species and some perennial beds. But it should also be the occasion to learn more about the world of plants. With this in mind, we have given much attention to the correct labelling of all woody species. In addition, a catalogue of plants is updated yearly and made available on our website.

Specializing in some genera

In addition to a large range of trees and shrubs hardy in our climate, we have chosen to concentrate on certain genera. Our



Magnolia 'Bjuv'



Maples in the Marnefwood

Arboretum Wespelaar presents the visitor with a World collection of trees and shrubs hardy in the climate of Belgium.

The twenty hectares of the Arboretum contain a range of different landscapes: both ancient woodland and open spaces, natural looking sections and neatly tended beds and lawns. Early in spring, *Magnolias* will be our main attraction but there should be flowering trees and shrubs from April to September. And the autumn months will bring a riot of colours to most of our plants.

varieties of woody plants.

Conservation of threatened trees

Many of our trees and shrubs are to be found on the Red List of the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature). This is the main authoritative source for the assessment of the status of threatened animals and plants of the world. By giving priority to wild collected plants, identified as endangered or critically endangered on these lists, we hope to contribute to the conservation of such plants. These specimens are identified by a small red label next to the display label at the base of our plants.

collection of temperate *Magnolia* is among the most important of the world. In addition to temperate species, we hold an important range of horticultural cultivars. These cultivated varieties are often hybrids selected for their horticultural value, some of which were developed and selected at the Arboretum. This is the case of *Magnolia 'Daphne'*, a good yellow flowering selection. Our *Rhododendron* collection also deserves a visit: specimens have been planted in a systematic layout to allow for comparisons and identification of close relatives within the genus. Our maple collection (the genus *Acer*) holds most of the maples hardy under our climate and many varieties of different colours and forms. They contribute to a most brilliant autumn show. We have also fallen in love with the genus *Stewartia*, a small genus in the tea family (Theaceae).



Rhododendron 'Blue Diamond'



Stewartia pseudocamellia

OPENING HOURS

The Arboretum is open to the public on Wednesday and Sunday from April 1 till November 15. Opening hours: 10am – 5pm.

ENTRANCE FEES

- Adults and children over 12 years: 5 €
- Children under 12 but accompanied by an adult: free
- Annual ticket for families: 30 €

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Arboretum
Wespelaar



GUIDED TOUR (also possible outside of our opening days)
 50 € per guide + entrance fee of 5 € per person (maximum 25 participants).
 Please enquire well in advance as to the availability of a guide.

The Arboretum does not have hard surface paths. Please bring your proper footgear.
 Dogs are not allowed.

HOW TO REACH US

The entrance of the Arboretum is situated in the centre of the village, near the church of Wespelaar (No. 63, red gate). We can be reached easily with public transportation by bus (Line 284), or by train (both on the Mechelen-Leuven line) or by bike or car.

PARKING

Our parking is situated behind the city school E. Willemslaan (see parking 1 on map). Some 30 parking lots and one bus place are available. Further parking can be found near the church (parking 2 on the map) or city streets.