

Fun facts! Topiary, Landscape and New Food & Beverage Trivia for 20th Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. – A dozen new food and beverage garden marketplaces, 30 million multi-hued blooms, 1,000 native butterflies and 100-plus whimsical topiaries add splendor and substance to the 20th Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival March 6-May 19 at Walt Disney World Resort.

Among this year's fun festival facts:

- **30 million blooms** blanket the park throughout the festival, which runs **75 colorful days**.
- **One dozen brand-new garden marketplaces** surround the World Showcase Lagoon offering festival taste treats ranging from shrimp and grits with fresh Florida veggies to barbecue and brew. Each marketplace will feature **a produce and herb garden to represent the more than 50 marketplace beverage choices and more than 30 food items** featured at the marketplaces.
- The festival's front-entrance **Party with Mickey & Friends topiary** scene comprises
- **six topiaries** – Mickey, Minnie, Donald, Daisy, Pluto and Goofy –and more than **15 varieties of flowers, plants, and other garden materials**.
- **The Land of Oz Garden** is the largest festival garden ever created for the festival at nearly **one-third acre**. The garden's own **"yellow brick road" is 160 feet long** and includes **40 feet of "yellow brick" decal, 40 feet of ForeverLawn yellow turf** and an **80-foot-long floral path** planted with **1,200 yellow viola plants**, to be replaced by tropical duranta plants when the weather heats up later in April.
- **Dozens of additional Disney character topiaries** represent the largest collection of Disney character topiary in the world and include Disney and Pixar film and TV stars **Mike and Sulley (new!)** plus Woody, Buzz Lightyear, Cinderella, Belle and Beast, and Phineas and Ferb. At least **25 different plants**, grasses and mosses of various colors, including pink and red begonias, dusty miller, palm fiber, palm seeds, ficus and lichen, are used to create and define features of additional **festival topiaries**.
- **1,000 native butterflies** represent up to **10 species** at the expansive **Tinker Bell's Butterfly House**. Among the garden's **two dozen nectar plants** are Cape Royal plumbago, passion flower, coral honeysuckle, blazing star, butterfly bush, scarlet milkweed and canna lily.
- More than **500,000 plants, trees and shrubs** are planted for the festival; **250,000** of those are **annual blossoms** installed for the festival.
- Festival plants include **60 different species of trees, 47 types of palms, and 48 varieties of bedding plants**.
- **150 hands-on gardening demonstrations and seminars** will be presented.
- **30 "flower towers"** of several varieties of blooms and plants line Innoventions Plaza.
- **225 floating mini-gardens**, each three feet in diameter, of multi-hued impatiens provide splashes of color on two ponds that border the walkway between Future World and World Showcase.
- **700 container gardens** of flowers, herbs, plants and vegetables in clay pots, barrels and urns enhance the landscape throughout Epcot.
- **400 Walt Disney World horticulturists are needed to install** the festival landscape, topiaries and many exhibits; **100 Epcot horticulturists maintain** topiaries and other festival displays.
- It takes **more than one full year** and about **24,000 cast member hours** to prepare for the annual festival.
- The festival's weekend **Flower Power** concert series includes **11 artists and groups known for their Top 40 hits**. This year's musical hit-makers from the 1960s and '70s include The Monkees Lead Singer Micky Dolenz, The Village People (new!), Tommy Roe (new!), Starship starring Mickey Thomas, The Guess Who,

Chubby Checker & The Wildcats, Paul Revere & The Raiders, Nelson, The Turtles featuring Flo & Eddie, The Orchestra starring former members of ELO, Herman's Hermits Starring Peter Noone.

Guest information for the 20th annual Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival is available at **EpcotInSpring.com** or at 407/W-DISNEY.

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