



Visiting The Gardens at Ball 2023

Welcome to The Gardens at Ball. Our grounds in West Chicago, Illinois have been the evaluation and testing grounds for the world's wealth of horticulture since 1933. Visits to The Gardens at Ball are available and encouraged for customers of Ball Seed® and industry partners.

The Gardens are not usually open to the public, however organized garden groups such as garden clubs can make a request to visit on a weekday in August by appointment between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., subject to availability. There is no admission charge and tours are self-guided using a provided map (guided tours are unavailable). We begin scheduling appointments in May of the current year for visits in August. Visiting policies are reviewed annually each Spring and subject to change. **To schedule an appointment for a group visit in August, please call our main switchboard at 630 231-3600.**

Once your group has a confirmed appointment, you will receive additional visit details via email, including how to obtain maps, parking options and nearby restaurants (we are unable to accommodate luncheons or picnics on-site). Please note that public visitors are not permitted into any campus buildings, however we do have restrooms in The Gardens open during business hours.

Note about elderly/handicapped visitors: Paths can be navigated with a wheelchair if the guest has their own equipment and attendant, but as a non-public garden, we do not have golf cart assistance or other handicap assistance available. There are several walking pathways, and the average visit is approximately 90 minutes. Paths are mostly on gravel from the parking lot to the garden and throughout 10 acres of landscaped gardens. Guests should be steady on their feet and able to walk at least a mile comfortably.

Hydration: It is important to bring your own beverages to stay hydrated during your visit. August days can be quite warm, and as a private garden, we do not have refreshments available. We recommend dressing appropriately for the weather including a hat for sun protection and insect repellent.

If you are an individual, group of friends, or family interested in a garden visit, we recommend the nearby public Gardens at Cantigny Park: <https://cantigny.org/things-to-do/gardens/about-the-gardens/>

We thank you for your interest in The Gardens at Ball! Please call our main switchboard for any additional questions or concerns.