

## PRESS Release – Autumn 2007

### 30<sup>th</sup> Celebration of Plants and Gardens in Aywiers

For the past 15 years, in Spring and in Autumn, the heavy doors to the ancient Abbey of Aywiers have been opened twice a year to the public. The Celebration of Plants and Gardens, held this coming 5th, 6th and 7th of October, has become the one meeting place that can't be missed for amateurs, connoisseurs and experts – lovers all of nature, the environment and gardening.

All flowered dreams are welcome in the Jardins d'Aywiers. !

From Belgium and abroad, some 170 gardening professionals including the very best horticulturalists, nurserymen, garden decorators and landscape architects, artists and craftspeople are going to be there. They will show their most recent discoveries and introduce their best products to visitors. They are of course ready to give you the advice you are looking for and share their experience with you.

At this 30<sup>th</sup> gardening celebration, ornamental grasses will be the heroes of the day, charming us with their grace, subtle beauty and luminosity.

In 1897, Margaret Plues wrote in *British Grasses* that public taste had changed. People had been charmed by ornamental grasses and all that they could bring to landscaping. Once again, these irresistible ornamental grasses are appreciated and valued. Whether annual or perennial these are all members of the grass family. Offering many varieties, easy to grow and resistant, they are a splendid link between the planned garden and nature's untended ones. Their qualities are such that they have no real rivals.

Their different heights and silhouettes give shape to a flower bed or a clump of bushes. Ground cover or in elegant sprays, with long foliage changing as flowering disappears, they are never shorter than 30 cm and can become as tall as 4m60.

Pastels, strong vibrant colours or even multicoloured, grasses can belong to all styles of design, proposing an attractive and subtle palette of colours contrasting spectacularly with the capricious background of the skies and seasons.

Better than any other plant, grasses can catch the light and shed a magical intensity upon their surroundings.

Their supple stem, airy flowers, trembling leaves reach to meet the winds and hum many tunes while swaying elegantly with breeze or storm alike.

Ornamental grasses lend their particular charm to winter's sleep, when frosty lace clings to these small leaves, while birds harvest the last grains and the cold wind whistles through the blades of grass.

The Aywiers Park will have dressed up in its finest autumn apparel to welcome its visitors who can discover or simply learn more about the fascination of grasses.

## **Events and Activities**

- **Talks at the RTBF stand-** The *Jardins & Loisirs* programme.  
**On Saturday, October 6th ,**  
**at 11 AM and 4 PM-** **Francis Peeters** will talk about grasses « How to choose them, grow them and mix them ».  
**at 3 PM - Luc Noël** will tell us about «The *Jardins & Loisirs* programme : Backstage »  
**On Sunday, October 7th,**  
**at 11 AM and 4 PM - Francis Peeters** will talk about grasses « How to choose them, grow them and mix them ».  
**at 3 PM - Luc Noël and Marc Knaepen** with « *Bonjour Luc, Bonjour Marc* » ! -« Une pièce d'eau sans souci et des plantations réussies. » (An ornamental pond without a problem - and successfully planted) Questions & answers on your gardening problems.
- **The Gembloux Centre for Agronomic Research** will diagnose diseases attacking plants at the **Walloon Region's** stand..
- Questions & answers about **compost** with Erik Severin every day from **2 to 6.PM** at the **Walloon Region's** stand..
- Demonstration of pruning roses by **Rudy Velle of Lens Roses- on Sunday at 2 PM.**
- **Marie-Pascale Sikkink and Marie-Noëlle Cruysmans** will answer your questions on gardening at the **stand of favourites, « les coups de cœur ».**
- **Guided visits** of the ancient Abbey of Aywiers (Saturday at 3 PM and Sunday at 11 AM and 3 PM)

#### Activities for the children :

- The non-profit organisations « The Belgian Kids Fund » and « Les Amis de l'Huderf» are organising creative workshops for children (**their entrance fee goes to these organisations**)
- The « **climbing in trees** » activities on Saturday and Sunday with the Arboritech stand.
- **Donkey rides** (on Saturday and Sunday, in the afternoon) with the LISANE donkey stables who will share their appreciation of this exceptional animal with you!

## Calendar

Friday, October 5th, 2007 from 1 PM to 6 PM,  
 Saturday, October 6th, 2007 from 10 AM to 6 PM,  
 Sunday, October 7th, 2007 from 10 AM to 6 PM.

## Entrance fees

Adults : **8 euros. Free for children under 14.**

Catering services in the grounds, wheelbarrow service for your acquisitions, free parking.

For your diary; the spring Celebration of Plants and Gardens in Aywiers will be held on  
May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3rd and 4th, 2008.

### **For further information :**

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Please consult our website: [www.aywiers.be](http://www.aywiers.be). Where you will see our **PHOTO SPACE** and **more information!** Sophie Collet created the design which will illustrate all our documents this autumn.

**Thank you for your interest in our events. Your support is precious to us  
and very encouraging!**

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