

Guests shop for plants at the Edison and Ford Winter Estates Garden Festival.



Edison and Ford Winter Estates to Host Annual Spring Garden Festival

On February 11 and 12 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Edison and Ford Winter Estates in Fort Myers will hold its annual Spring Garden Festival. More than 60 garden vendors from around the state will have exotic and native plants and trees for sale. The festival takes place outdoors, under large shade trees and features food trucks and live music.

Vendors will have many types of plants and trees, including air plants, bromeliads, butterfly plants, cacti, fruit trees, herbs, hibiscus, orchids, palms, succulents, and many hard-to-find species. Vendors will also offer garden supplies, such as flowerpots, fertilizer and worm castings.

The Garden Shoppe will also be open and offers visitors a large selection of unusual tropical and Florida native plants that thrive in Southwest Florida. Ceramic flowerpots, vegetable and flower seeds, garden art, and gardening gift items will be available for purchase. Edison Ford members receive a discount on all Garden Shoppe purchases.

"This event has grown over the last 10 years," said Debbie Hughes, Horticulture Director at Edison and Ford Winter Estates. "Each year, we have more vendors participating, which gives our members and visitors a larger selection of plants to choose from."

A limited number of garden carts will be available, so guests are encouraged to bring a cart or wagon for transporting plants. A designated plant holding tent and loading spot will be offered for anyone needing assistance. Parking and admission to the festival is free (tours of the homes, museum and laboratory are not included). For more information, visit edisonford.org.

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Edison and Ford Winter Estates

Edison and Ford Winter Estates is the internationally known winter home site of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford. More than 220,000 visitors walk through the location each year from all around the globe. The organization has received many awards, including the National Stewardship Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Garden Clubs' Historic Preservation Award. The property is an official project of "Save America's Treasures," a Florida Historic Landmark and a National Register Historic Site. The Edison Botanic Laboratory is a National Historic Chemical Landmark. The site is open every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and until 9 p.m. during the month of December for Holiday Nights.