## CHRONOLOGY

**1842** The Botanical Gardens are founded. The Municipality of Trieste chooses the area of Chiadino, still occupied today by the Botanical Gardens, as the site for the experimental plantation of Austrian black pine in the Karst. The experiment is entrusted to the botanical pharmacist **Bartolomeo Biasoletto** (1793-1858). In a section of the site Biasoletto also transfers the rare species cultivated in his Pharmaceutical Gardens of the civic countryside known as La Fontana (now via del Coroneo), which was closed owing to a shortage of funds.

**1861** What has now come to be known as the Botanical Gardens begins to broaden and take shape thanks to the implantation and seeding of a large number of local species gathered in the Julian Alps, Istria and Dalmatia by **Muzio de' Tommasini** (1794-1879) and his assistants. A former head of the Municipality of Trieste, a botanist of international fame and a friend and supporter of Biasoletto, Tommasini is intent on establishing a scientific institute proper.

**1871** Following the death of the botanist **Elisa Braig** (1803-1870), a friend of Biasoletto and Tommasini, the collection is increased with numerous local species, some of which very rare, originating from her garden in Villa Murat in the neighbourhood of S. Andrea.

**1873** The town council opens the Botanical Gardens to the public.

**1877** The first catalogue for the exchange of seeds – *Delectus Seminum quae Hortus Botanicus Tergestini pro mutua communicatione offert* – is published, the result of cooperation between Muzio de' Tommasini and **Raimondo Tominz** (1822-1906), the Inspector of public plantations who is destined to continue to look after the Gardens for many years after the death of Tommasini.

**1903** The Botanical Gardens become a public institution and are annexed to the Museum of Natural History. **Carlo de' Marchesetti** (1850-1926), director of the museum and Tommasini's favourite student also takes on direct responsibility of the Gardens. Under the direction of Marchesetti the Botanical Gardens achieve their greatest extent and take on the current layout. The Gardens are also enriched in this period with a section of palustrine plants, a section of alpine plants and a section of species for economic, medicinal and industrial use.

**1921** After the retirement of Marchesetti the Civic Museum of Natural History and the annexed institutes come under the direction of the zoologist **Mario Stenta** (1876 -1928), and then the entomologist **Giuseppe Müller** (1880-1964).

**1929** The Gardens are entrusted to the assistant curator **Carlo Lona** (1885-1971), a naturalist and scholar of entomology and botany who will continue to manage them until 1968. In this period the pre-existing collections make room for a new section of medicinal plants and a section of plants from rocky habitats.

**1948** The Gardens come under the direction of **Edoardo Gridelli** (1895-1958), head of the Civic Museum of Natural History.

**1960** **Renato Mezzena** takes on the office of director of the Civic Museum of Natural History and the Botanical Gardens. In this period the Gardens are enriched by a collection of ferns.

**1986** The Botanical Gardens are closed to the public owing to a lack of resources and shortage of personnel. The publication of *Index Seminum* is also interrupted.

**1997** Under the guidance of **Sergio Dolce**, director of the Civic Scientific Museums, the reconstruction works begun in 1991 continue. **Massimo Palma**, curator of the Botanical Gardens, resumes the publication of *Index Seminum*.

**2001** A part of the Botanical Gardens is reopened to the public, while the works of renovation, reimplantation and seeding to restore the botanical heritage continues.

# botanical gardens

municipality of trieste
cultural area and sport
scientific museums service

Open all year round from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday.

Guided visits may be booked for school and other groups.

Direct bus routes nos. 25 & 26, or nos. 6, 9 & 35 with a short walk: alight at piazza Volontari Giuliani and follow Scala San Luigi - Campo San Luigi; or alight at the next stop (Scala Margherita) and follow via Pindemonte - Bosco Biasoletto.

for information:
Botanical Gardens - via Carlo de Marchesetti, 2
tel. e fax +39 040 360 068
ortobotanico@comune.trieste.it
www.retecivica.trieste.it


ideazione Fabiola Faidiga - stampa Art Group Srl

# trieste botanical gardens

# trieste botanical gardens

## THE AREAS

① **wild plants**
This section is undergoing development. A complete renewal of the historical flowerbeds will be carried out, with special emphasis on the most interesting species from the Trieste, Istrian and surrounding regions.

② **houseplants**
At the beginning of the section dedicated to poisonous plants – the poisonous garden – the most widespread toxic or lethal houseplants are on display.

③ **ornamental plants**
In the flowerbeds along the perimeter of the gardens there are several collections of ornamental plants (*Hedera* - ivy, *Hydrangea* - hydrangea, *Hosta* - hosta, *Helleborus* - hellebore, *Paeonia* - peony, *Rosa* - rose, *Viola* - violet), as well as spring-flowering (*Crocus* - crocus, *Galanthus* - snowdrops, *Eranthis* – winter aconite) and autumn-flowering bulbs (*Sternbergia* – winter daffodil).

④ **anthology of magical plants**
A flowerbed with a suggestively esoteric configuration, enriched with a stone fountain, a symbol of the trinity, is the site for a collection of the main plants with magical, religious and mythological importance. Magic is a metaphor for mankind's relationship with nature, the basis of the mental construction that man erects against the indefinite, a stimulus for knowledge regarding traditions often based on officinal powers or on taboo dictated by the real danger of the plant. It is not, therefore, an incentive for superstition.

⑤ **officinal plants**
The layout of the garden dedicated to the officinal plants follows a systematic criteria (Pignatti, 1982). The choice of the species is based on the list of plants registered in the Official Pharmacopoeia of the Italian Republic and integrated with those present in studies of ethnobotany of Friuli-Venezia Giulia (Lokar Poldini, Rossi), in historical lists (Marchesetti) and in research regarding the officinal plants of the Austro-Hungarian coast (Tominz, 1881).

⑥ **lotuses**
The ponds are home to various aquatic species, including lotuses (*Nelumbo*) in full bloom in July and August, with iridescent colours in shades of pink, white and yellow.

⑦ **edible plants**
In response to research in edible wild plants it was decided to organise this area based on the various environments where the individual species grow, so as to facilitate their recognition in nature.

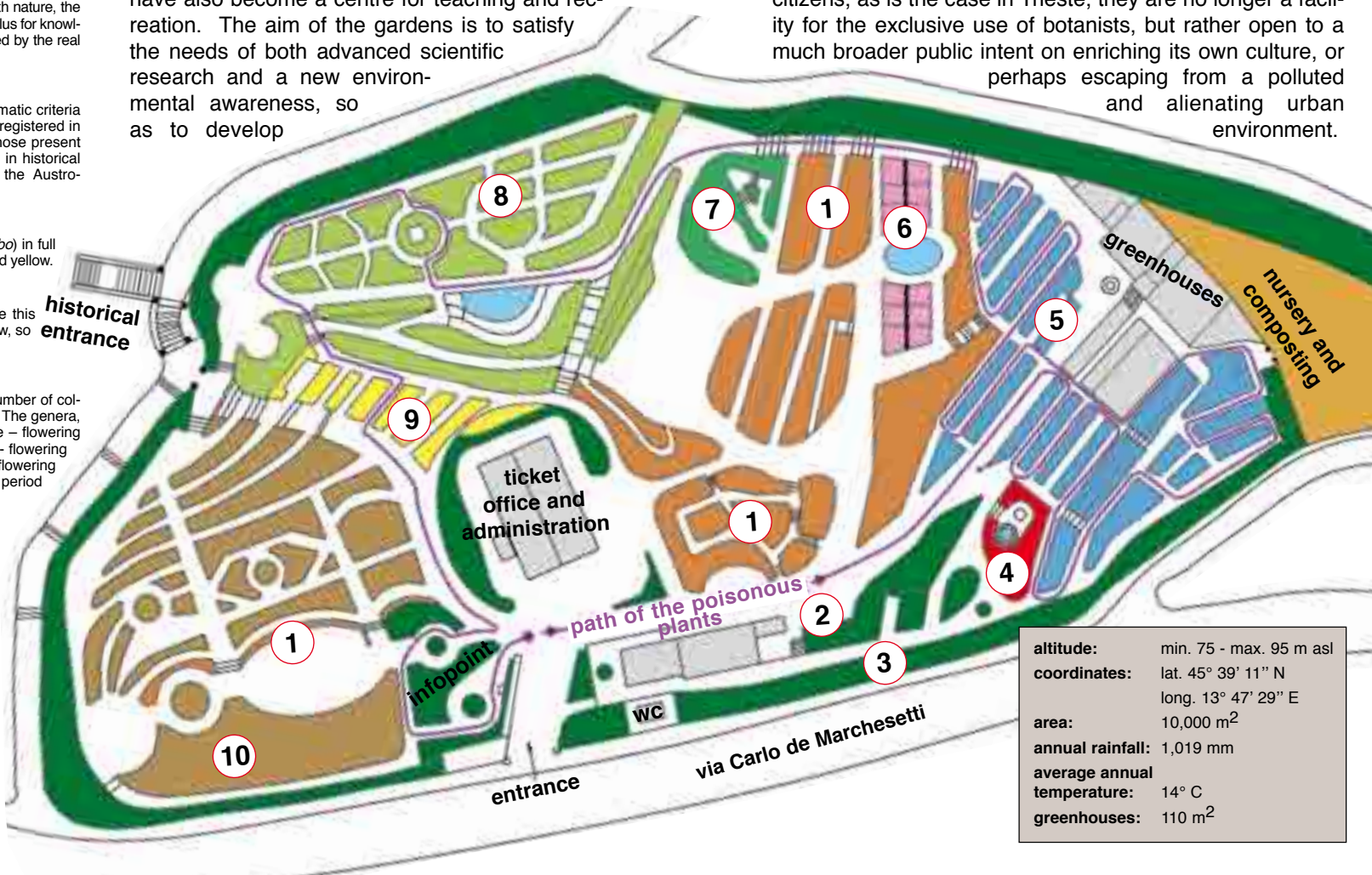
⑧ **formal garden**
The ordered flowerbeds bordered by the low box hedge are home to a number of collections of ornamental plants which bloom in different periods of the year. The genera, represented here by a large variety of species, are *Helleborus* (hellebore – flowering period II-IV), *Narcissus* (daffodil - flowering period XI-V), *Paeonia* (peony - flowering period III-V), *Iris* (iris - flowering period II-VII), *Hydrangea* (hydrangea - flowering period IV-IX), *Hosta* (hosta - flowering period V-VII), *Rosa* (rose - flowering period V-X), and *Salvia* (sage - flowering period IV-XI).

⑨ **dye plants**
The choice of dedicating a section to a collection of dye plants arises from the desire to display the main historical species used by dyers. Alongside these are the spontaneous plants of limited and local use, and the exotics which poorly tolerate Trieste's harsh winters and need to be protected in the greenhouses.

⑩ **useful plants**
Following the complete renovation of the facilities and the access to them, this section will host the main "plants of man" – those plants which for their various uses (nourishment, cosmetics, textiles) have shared the history and events of mankind.

**the poison garden – path of the poisonous plants**
This path with a guide is a close-up introduction to a number of poisonous plants. Scientific information is provided for each of them, along with peculiarities and uses. The path also aims to highlight the positive sides of the poisons: the pharmacological notes accompanying the plants indicate the therapeutic uses of the various toxins.

The Botanical Gardens are the property of the **Municipality of Trieste** and a part of the **Civic Scientific Museums**. The layout of the gardens, as depicted in the map, includes various areas. Associated with the gardens is a natural reserve comprising the Biasoletto wood and the Farneto wood (for a total of 90 ha).
The Botanical Gardens publishes the *Index Seminum*, where each year the species for which seeds are offered are listed, complete with all of the collection data. The list is sent to most of the other botanical gardens throughout the world as part of a free exchange between scientific institutes.
Already a linchpin in the relationship between scientific research and environmental conservation, botanical gardens have also become a centre for teaching and recreation. The aim of the gardens is to satisfy the needs of both advanced scientific research and a new environmental awareness, so as to develop activities of a cultural nature for an increasingly broader section of the public.
As well as the research and systematic classification performed, botanical gardens have taken on the role of the conservation, cultivation and reproduction of officinal plants, plants for textile production and foodstuffs, local horticultural varieties, spontaneous and endemic flora of the region and surrounding areas, aquatic and palustrine plants, succulent plants. For this reason botanical gardens may be seen as an island, albeit artificial, of floristic diversity which plays a strategic part in the conservation of biodiversity, and therefore in the survival of mankind itself.
When the gardens are integrated into the daily life of the citizens, as is the case in Trieste, they are no longer a facility for the exclusive use of botanists, but rather open to a much broader public intent on enriching its own culture, or perhaps escaping from a polluted and alienating urban environment.




| | |
|---|---|
| **altitude:** | min. 75 - max. 95 m asl |
| **coordinates:** | lat. 45° 39' 11'' N |
| | long. 13° 47' 29'' E |
| **area:** | 10,000 $m^2$ |
| **annual rainfall:** | 1,019 mm |
| **average annual temperature:** | 14° C |
| **greenhouses:** | 110 $m^2$ |