

Blondehuset – “The Lace House” (40)

Blondehuset was built prior to 1850. It was originally situated at Haukeland, but had to be moved when the hospital was extended in 1973. It was rebuilt at Milde in 1992, now used as a café and meeting place for visitors, a clubhouse for the Friends of the Arboretum and for lectures and seminars. In the garden surrounding Blondehuset you will find a selection of historic garden plants with Western Norwegian traditions dating from before 1900.



Summer in Blondehuset garden

Friends of the Arboretum

The Friends of the Arboretum support the Arboretum and Botanical Garden through voluntary work and financial contributions from membership fees and events. The association is open for anyone who would like to offer their support.

The Year Book

With the support of the Friends of the Arboretum, we publish the annual magazine “Årringen” (The Year Book), which is written for a broad range of readers. The year book contains a wealth of information on the plant collections at Milde, the work that is carried out here and on botany and horticulture in general. Copies can be ordered from the Arboretum and Botanical Garden.

NOTE! All use of open flames, including disposable barbecues, is strictly forbidden in the Arboretum and the Botanical Garden. Dogs must be kept on leads all year round.

Welcome to the Arboretum and Botanical Garden!

The Arboretum and Botanical Garden at Milde are open all year round. You will find us about 23 km south of the city of Bergen. Bus route 525 runs from Bergen Storsenter (the bus station) to Milde. There are car parks at Dalsmyra, Mildevågen and in the Botanical Garden at Vågelva (see map). Disabled persons can park at Grønevika.

On arrival you are free to wander along well-prepared roads and paths, many of which are suitable for wheelchair users. The bathing areas at Grønevika (with toilets) and Sandholna are managed by “Bergen & Omland Friluftsråd”. Coffee, waffles and ice cream are sold at Blondehuset every Sunday from Easter to the end of August. From May the café is also open on Saturdays. There are toilets available to the public in Blondehuset.



Guided tours

Groups can book guided tours. The price is currently NOK 25 per person (minimum charge NOK 200).

The foundation The Norwegian Arboretum is run by the University of Bergen, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Bergen municipal council and Hordaland county council. The Arboretum and Botanical Garden (ARBOHA) is a division of Bergen Museum.

Contacting us

The Arboretum and Botanical Garden
Mildevæien 240,
5259 Hjeltestad

Tel.: (+47) 55 98 72 50
E-mail: post@sah.uib.no
<http://www.uib.no/arboretet/>

Welcome to the

Arboretum & Botanical Garden at Milde

- 5000 plant taxa from all over the World
- Norway's largest collection of Roses
- The largest Rhododendron collection in Scandinavia
- Heather Garden, Japanese Garden and Alpine Garden
- Displays of historical garden plants and traditions
- Accessible for disabled persons



The Arboretum and Botanical Garden at Milde

The Arboretum and Botanical Garden are situated in idyllic surroundings at Milde next to the Fanafjord, south of Bergen. Here you will discover a collection of more than 5000 plant species! The collection facilitates research, education, testing of plants for their suitability in Norwegian conditions and to generate interest in the natural sciences, in botany and in horticulture. The area is also perfect for recreation and open air activities.

Diversity and genetic resources

The plants we cultivate are mainly from the temperate zones of the world. One of the aims of the Arboretum and Botanical Garden is to bring together the widest possible diversity of wild species, particularly those that people have cultivated for their own use, with an emphasis on those from Western Norway. This is why the Arboretum and Botanical Garden plays an important role in conservation and the use of genetic resources. The collection is also of considerable value in connection with horticulture, agriculture, forestry and the conservation of natural landscapes.



Diversity in The Heather garden

Natural forest

From Mørkevatnet and Grønevika to Litle and Store Brandanaset, the terrain is covered by natural pine forest and spruce plantations. A number of species from warmer climates together with our native oak and hazel can be seen in Naustdalen, Hatlehaugen and around Fana Folkehøgskule. Holly has also been planted here (11, 13, 21).

THE ARBORETUM

An arboretum is a collection of living trees and shrubs. The Norwegian Arboretum at Milde covers 50 hectares and was founded in 1971 on the initiative of Fritz C. Rieber.

Rhododendron (27, 47)

This genus with almost 1000 wild species is a member of the heather family. The majority of these can be found in the Himalayas and East Asia, although a few are found in Europe and North America. They prefer acid soils and a damp climate with mild winters, conditions that are prevalent across Western Norway. The Arboretum at Milde, with almost 300 species and 600 varieties has Scandinavia's largest collection of *Rhododendrons*. The wild species are found in Nore Krossdalane (47), while Nydalen (27) has the cultivated garden varieties.

The Rosarium (15, 16, 23)

With over 500 different species and varieties, the Arboretum has Norway's largest rose collection. The rose collection in Naustdalen is divided into the Wild Rose Path (15), where the roses are arranged in family groups, and The Historical Path (23), where the theme is the history of cultivated garden roses. The Rosarium itself (16), contains modern garden roses that are best suited to Western Norway.

The Heather Garden (42)

The Heather Garden focuses on heather in purely botanical terms ('Mixed Company'), on the use of heather as a garden plant ('Mixed Beds') and on the variations in common heather ('The Patchwork'). The gardens also display heather that flower at different times of the year ('Spring Heather', 'Flowering Heather' and 'The Faithful').

Trees and shrubs from other continents

European trees and shrubs can be seen along the path from Dalsmyra to Mørkevatnet. From the Heather Garden and southwards to Nydalen you can see plants from the Southern Hemisphere. The Asian collections are planted from the Mini Arboretum (43, 45) northwards to Gjørvikhaugen and Nore Krossdalane, while species from America can be found from Oldertøset to Mørkevågen. Many American conifers had already been planted long before the Arboretum was established.



Rhododendron in the forest

THE BOTANICAL GARDEN

The University of Bergen opened its new Botanical Garden at Litle Milde in 1996. The garden, which covers approximately 7 hectares, is divided into thematic sections such as the Useful Plant Garden, the Moss Garden, the Japanese Garden and the Alpine Garden. Near the pier at Mildevatnet (6) you can study aquatic plants and other fresh water organisms.

The Alpine Garden (4)

Here you will find plants from the mountains of Europe, Africa, Asia and America together with wild Norwegian species. Many alpine plants have adapted to the severe weather conditions in the mountains by being creeping, having a cushion shape, or by surviving as tubers or bulbs. The challenge is to find plants that thrive in the fluctuating winter conditions of Western Norway.

The Moss Garden (3)

Norway's first official moss garden was opened at Milde in 1999. You will be amazed by the enormous variety in form and colour to be found among the various types of mosses. We have brought together some of the more common species in Western Norway in the Moss Garden. The Japanese Garden (2) is currently being expanded here.

The Sunny Meadow (1)

Here you will find beds dedicated to summer flowers, peonies, narcissi and representatives of the olive and honeysuckle families. The beds around the car park are also home to a large number of special plants.

The Useful Plant Garden (7)

Here you will find a collection of especially useful plants, such as flax, onions and apples, the Norwegian speciality "Voss Angelica" (probably Norway's oldest vegetable) and a collection of more than 45 kinds of potatoes.



The University's owl in the Sunny Meadow