

Hort Tips and News

Sandy Welches, MGV '05

Hopeful news from across The Pond: "Very old tree shows ash tree dieback resistance."

The first tree to show "strong resistance" to ash tree dieback fungus (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) has been identified in Norfolk, England. Nicknamed "Betty," the 200-year-old ash is so far untouched by the disease, even though a large number of neighboring trees have been killed. The discovery, by scientists at the John Innes Centre, Norfolk, makes the possibility of raising resistant trees through selective breeding more of a reality.

Results from the research are based around genetic markers, which can indicate whether or not a tree is likely to be "mildly" or "strongly" tolerant to the fungus. Finding the markers has been achieved relatively quickly in the timeline of the disease's presence in the UK, but researchers say there is still much to do.

Allan Downie, coordinator of the John Innes project, said, "A really important question is what percentage of seeds from trees that are tolerant would also produce tolerant offspring? Finding the answer to that will take time as we cannot speed up growing trees." Stay tuned for updates on their research.

Gress, A. (2016, June). News: Current Topics of Interest to Gardeners, *The Garden*, p.8.
(This is the publication of London's Royal Horticulture Society)

Glorious Gardens in Chicago

While reading the July/August *Ohio Gardener*, I came across an article that recommends sixteen luscious gardens to visit. Since my husband and I are going to Chicago in July, I thought I'd share author Stephanie Cohen's suggestions for that area. She describes gardens from Pennsylvania to Wisconsin, but here are her favorites in the Chicago area:

Lincoln Park Conservatory, 2391 N. Stockton Drive, Chicago IL

www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

This is a horticultural gem right on the Chicago's lakefront. No matter what the time of the year, Lincoln Park is always green and lush and admission is free. Visit the website to find more than 50 gardens and natural areas throughout Chicago's parks.

Garfield Conservatory, 300 N. Central Ave.

www.garfieldconservatory.org

This newly restored conservatory is one of Chicago's premier cultural institutions with eight display houses encompassing 2 acres under glass as well as 10 acres of outdoor gardens.

Cantigny Gardens, 1S151 Winfield Rd., Wheaton IL

www.cantigny.org

Just 35 miles west of Chicago, it's minutes from the Morton Arboretum. Called a "horticultural masterpiece," the 30-acre garden highlights a terraced Rose Garden and an inspiring Idea Garden. Grounds include a restaurant and gift shop.

Also, you may want to see **Butterflies and Blooms** Exhibition, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe IL.

www.chicagobotanic.org May-September, 2016