



Open Gardens Checklist

Your fellow NPA members appreciate your willingness to share your garden. We hope that you will enjoy the day as much as your visitors do. Here are suggestions to help you prepare for your open garden event.

🌸 **NPA Garden Host Package**

Well in advance of your Open Days, you will have received your host package which includes colorful Open and Closed signs, as well as sign-up sheets for your visitors. Plan ahead about where to post your Open sign so visitors can easily spot it as they approach your garden. Depending on your situation, you may wish to augment the NPA sign with an additional directional sign or arrow. For all materials, please follow the instructions in your host package.

🌸 **Do you need an Open Day helper?**

If you garden by yourself, is someone helping you on your Open Days? Do you have a friend or neighbor who could help greet and guide visitors or replenish refreshments? If you need a hand, but you don't know anyone, let us know. Perhaps an NPA member in your area can help.

🌸 **Cautionary signage**

Do you need any caution signs or should you close off certain areas of your garden that you deem unsafe? It might help for you or a friend to walk through your garden with an eye for hazards like a loose stone step, a low-hanging branch, or a steep drop off.

🌸 **Plant identification**

While optional, a plant list or other means of plant identification (i.e., labels in the ground or in a binder) can be very helpful, especially when you are busy with visitors and can't get to everyone asking questions.

🌸 **Refreshments**

Some NPA hosts offer their visitors a beverage and a little snack. While refreshments are optional, at least some cold water will be appreciated, especially if you're open on a hot day.

🌸 **Restroom**

While touring gardens, NPA visitors know to schedule restroom stops at public facilities and not to ask garden hosts. Whether or not you want to make any exceptions is entirely up to you.

🌸 **Make it a point to meet your tour mates**

Since you won't be able to see the other gardens on your tour, we suggest you contact your tour mates and arrange for a special garden walk-through at each others' gardens, either before or after your Open Days. Remember, you're in it together – it will be fun to meet the gardeners in your area and talk about your joint NPA event.

If you have questions or are uncertain about any of these points, please don't hesitate to ask. Email NPAopengardens@gmail.com. We're here to help!