

North America's Best Japanese Gardens

Anderson Gardens & Portland Top the List

There are more than 300 public Japanese gardens in North America. A few dozen are noteworthy. In 1999 JOJG launched a survey to try to identify those top gardens. Our primary goal was to help JOJG readers decide which ones to visit. Another goal was to recognize outstanding gardens for their superb efforts.

Here is the latest update to that survey. In 2008 JOJG distributed a questionnaire to 45 Japanese garden specialists. The letter posed one question: "What are the highest-quality public Japanese gardens located in North America?" We encouraged participants to apply their own definition of the word "quality," and we encouraged them to avoid selecting gardens merely on the basis of size or fame.

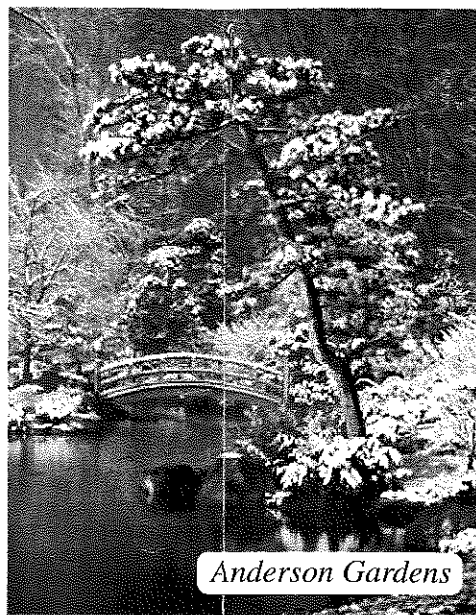
The latest survey results look familiar. As in the past, participants favored well-maintained gardens. They also favored gardens displaying intimate traits such as subtleness, moderation, and human scale. Three of the four newcomers to the list are small-scale "spa" type gardens.

The race for the top two positions was close. In the end, *Anderson Gardens* nosed out the *Portland Japanese Garden* as N. America's highest-quality garden. Portland did, however, have quite a few first place votes. Four new gardens appeared on the list. The top-ranked newcomer was the *Osmosis Spa* in California. Other rising "stars" include *Garvan Woodland Gardens* in Arkansas and the *Nishinomiya Garden* in Spokane.

The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston suffered the largest drop among top gardens. This is largely because the museum has looked upon its garden as routine landscaping rather than a work of art. *Hakone Gardens*, in Saratoga, California, has also fallen from grace. No public garden in North America has

more potential than Hakone, but several decades of poor maintenance and spotty management has eroded its reputation.

米国に300以上ある日本庭園のうち、45名の専門家によって選ばれた上位25カ所を掲載しました。第一位はシカゴエリアのアンダーソンガーデン。



Anderson Gardens



Portland

RANK / NAME	(Former Rank)	LOCATION
1. Anderson Gardens	(1)	Rockford, IL
2. Portland Japanese Garden	(2)	Portland, OR
3. Shofuso	(3)	Philadelphia, PA
4. UBC's Nitobe Garden	(4)	Vancouver, BC
5. Seattle Japanese Garden	(6)	Seattle, WA
6. The Bloedel Reserve	(5)	Bainbridge Island, WA
7. Carleton College	(9)	Northfield, MN
8. Garvan Woodland Gardens	(15)	Hot Springs, AR
9. San Mateo Japanese Garden	(14)	San Mateo, CA
10. Missouri Botanical Garden	(13)	St. Louis, MO
11. Asticou Garden	(11)	Mr. Desert Island, ME
12. Tillman Water Plant	(10)	Van Nuys, CA
13. JACCC Los Angeles	(7)	Los Angeles, CA
14. The Morikami Museum	(8)	Delray Beach, FL
15. Amherst College	(16)	Amherst, MA
16. The Nishinomiya Garden	(24)	Spokane, WA
17. Osmosis Spa	(--)	Sonoma County, CA
18. Brooklyn Botanic Garden	(25)	Brooklyn, NY
19. Como Park Conservatory	(--)	St. Paul, MN
20. Minn. Landscape Arboretum	(19)	Chanhassen, MN
21. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston	(12)	Boston, MA
22. Lethbridge Japanese Garden	(22)	Lethbridge, AB
23. Golden Door Spa	(--)	Escondido, CA
24. Montreal Botanic Garden	(20)	Montreal, QC
25. Wesleyan University	(--)	Middletown, CT
(--) San Diego Tech Center	(17)	San Diego, CA
(--) Denver Botanic Gardens	(18)	Denver, CO
(--) Hakone Gardens	(21)	Saratoga, CA
(--) East-West Center	(23)	Honolulu, HI