



### HEX PARC AND GARDENS LISTED BY MINISTERIAL DECREE SINCE 2005

The château at Hex was built around the end of the 18th century by the Prince-Bishop of Liege, Franz-Karl Graf (count) von Velbrück, as a summer residence and hunting pavilion. The house was built in a style between Rococo and Classical, and was surrounded by formal gardens, a vegetable plot and an "English garden", one of the first on the continent. It was a truly Arcadian setting. The current landscaped park dates from the middle of the 19th century and was designed by Louis Fuchs.

Velbrück was an enlightened humanist, art connoisseur, scientist and a nature-lover. Succeeding generations have maintained and cared for the land and embellished the plantations.

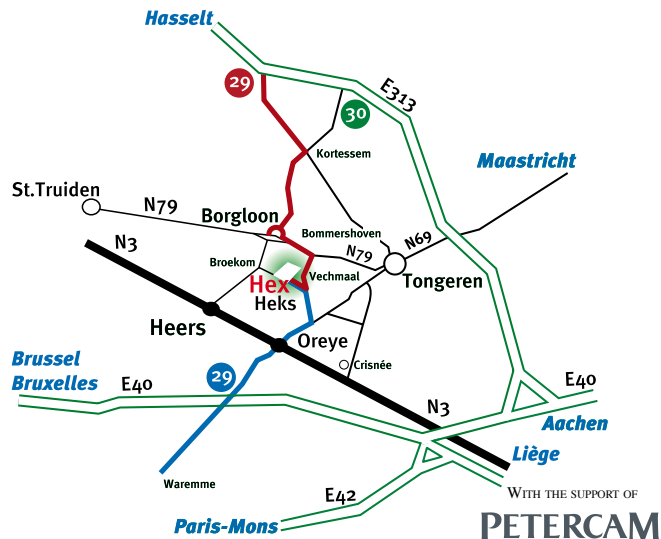
Nowadays, Hex is one of the most beautiful estates in Belgium, maintained through the wars and upheavals of the 19th and 20th centuries, until the present day. The gardens are internationally renowned for their collection of old and historic roses, created with never ending effort and joy by the late Countess Michel d'Urse. A few of the roses are original plants of the 18th century imported, with other exotics, by the East India Companies, following the fashion of that period. Numerous other species have been planted in more recent times. The extensive traditional vegetable garden is still in full production. A prominent part of the vegetable garden is the huge wall. This is not only the back of a number of cellars used for storing vegetables throughout the winter but is also important for forcing early crops. The gardens and the park, with its centuries old trees and beautiful vistas are open twice each year, in June and September, for the Festivals of Plants, Roses and Vegetables.

Hex is situated in the village of Heks (commune of Heers) in Flanders' Hesbaye, known for its orchards and picturesque landscape.

**Admission: € 8; members garden or botanical associations € 6**  
(for maintenance of the historic gardens).

Accompanied children under 16 free. Free parking. No dogs allowed.  
10 am-6pm (last entrance at 5 pm)

Pictures and entry tickets available for the press upon request



**Kasteel Hex, B-3870 Heers Belgium**

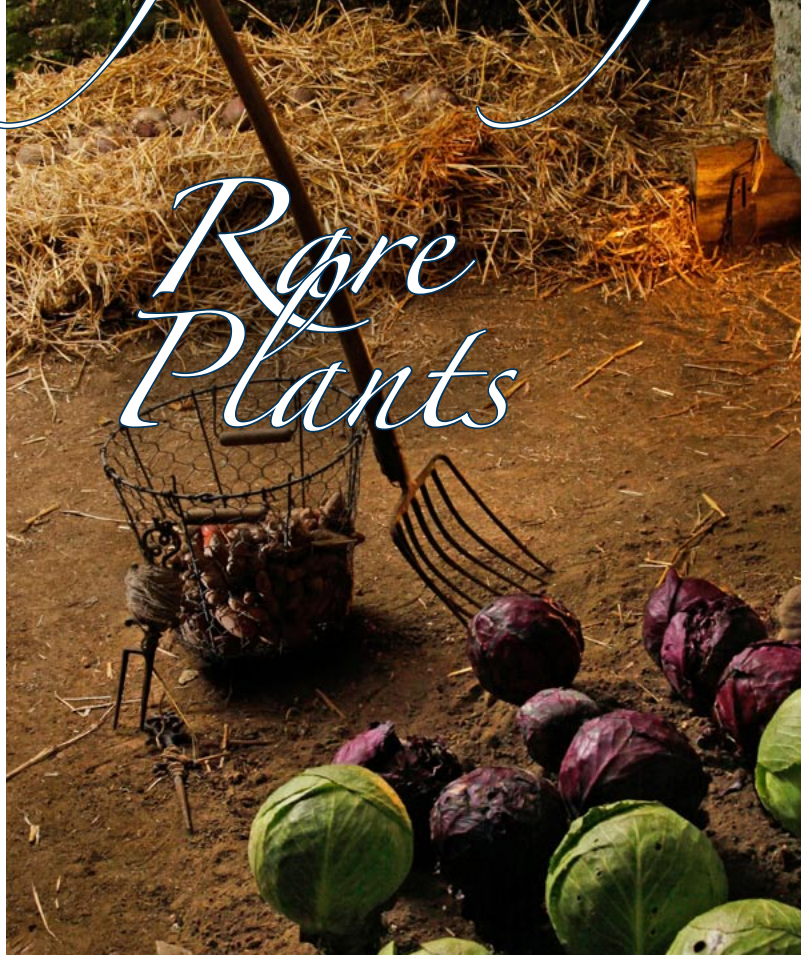
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# HEX

*festival of*

*Rare  
Plants*



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Saturday 11, and Sunday 12  
SEPTEMBER 2010

10 AM - 6 PM

# Hex festival of rare plants, roses and kitchen gardens

a meeting-place for amateur and professional garden-lovers

## AROMATIC AND MEDICINAL PLANTS :

- discover many varieties, new to the 'Prince Bishop's kitchen garden' and scattered throughout the gardens
- Espaliers : use, practice, and flavour, by Natuurlijk/Wim Collet
- flavour and taste, by chef Maarten Van Essche and Sanguisorba/Bart Belmans

## HISTORIC GARDENING TOOLS AND WATER MILL



The Hex collection of historic gardening tools comprises around a thousand items, dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century. In addition to general agricultural and horticultural use, many pieces were specifically designed for use in fruit growing, and these are exceptional in Europe, and unique in Limburg, through their connection with the typical Haspengouw fruit growing system. An inventory of the entire collection is gradually being made, and each year the items most recently catalogued are exhibited during the Hex Festival in September. This year, in addition, a collection of historic pruning shears from the collection of LENS ROSES will be on show.

Once the inventory is complete, the collection will be on permanent display in the listed water mill belonging to Heks (first mentioned in 1282, with the present building from the 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century). The mill was unique due to its dual purpose : milling cereal on the one hand, and pumping water uphill to the castle on the other. A restoration project is underway for the mill, to restore its functions and to make it accessible to the public.

Exceptionally, to mark European Open Monument Day, on Sunday September 12<sup>th</sup>, the mill will be open to the public (10-17h free entry), in cooperation with Heers Town Council, the Royal association of historic parks and gardens in Belgium and the Regional History Society of Greater Heers, which will be responsible for providing information about the mill. Visitors to the mill will receive a voucher for a reduced entry fee to the Hex Garden Festival taking place during the same weekend.

## GUIDED TOURS

- of the gardens, with guides of Hex
- of the roses, with Rudy Velle/Lens roses (Du./Fr.)



## AND... ALSO ...

- Maintenance of garden utensils, demonstration by Bert Bruggeman/De Wiltfang, (Sat. -Sun. 11.30am/3pm) (Du - questions in Engl. possible)
- About bees, in the bee garden, by Bienenkorf (Du)

### Continuous :

- Which pot or cloche to blanch vegetables? by Bart Belmans/Sanguisorba
- Edible wood : growing mushrooms on logs, by Pip Gilmore/Groene Takken
- Insect hotels from natural materials, with Rémy D'Andreis (FR)
- Tree pruning and care, by Regionaal Landschap Haspengouw en Voeren (RLH)
- Specialist nurseries offering individual collections of new and rare plants,
- New and special plants from nurseries and breeders: the nurseryman's choice
- High-quality garden tools and ornaments
- Cafés serving a selection of flower-inspired dishes.



## FOR CHILDREN

- Aromatic and medicinal plants and the flavour of espaliers, by Natuurlijk (Du/Fr/Germ.)
- Flavours and tastes of plants and flowers, by chef Maarten Van Essche and Bart Belmans/Sanguisorba (Du/Fr)
- Walks with Dora Stevens (Du)
- About bees, in the bee garden, by Bienenkorf (Du)

### Continuous :

- Edible wood : growing mushrooms on logs, by Pip Gilmore/Groene Takken
- Insect hotels from natural material, with Rémy D'Andreis (Fr)



## Also at HEX this year

- **PRUNING SESSIONS**, Tuesday 12 October  
**on roses** : 10 - 12 am Daniel Schmitz (French)  
2 - 4 pm Rudy Velle (Dutch)  
**on espaliers** : 10 - 12 am/2 - 4 pm Wim Collet (Dutch with explan. in German am/French pm)  
€ 15 p.p. (€/€ 30, lunch incl.),  
Information: gardens@hex.be or fax +32.(0)12.74 49 87
- **GUIDED GROUP VISITS** on work days, upon written request (min. 20/max 35 ps.)
- **HEX 2011 : FESTIVALS OF RARE PLANTS, ROSES AND KITCHEN GARDENS**  
Recycling animal and garden waste into good compost  
10 - 11 - 12 June 2011 • 10 - 11 September 2011

