

Public Service Announcement

March 25, 2015

City of Edmonton

You ain't smelled nothing yet: Corpse flower to bloom again

Putrella, the Muttart Conservatory's celebrity corpse flower, is preparing for another spectacularly smelly bloom. When Putrella last bloomed in 2013, the stench she produced to attract pollinating beetles also drew thousands of visitors to the Conservatory.



It's too early to predict the exact date when Putrella's 2015 bloom will begin, but it is expected in early April. Beginning at the start of Putrella's bloom, the Muttart Conservatory will be open for the next 24 hours, allowing visitors to catch her smell before it starts to fade. Vents in the tropical pyramid will be adjusted to keep Putrella smelling her worst for longer.

Corpse flowers are the largest flowering plants in the world, capable of growing as tall as 12 feet and weighing more than 170 pounds.

In their native Sumatra, corpse flowers (*amorphophallus titanum*) spend years collecting energy as giant leaves and resting underground as bulb-like "corms" that can weigh hundreds of pounds. Once enough energy has been gathered, the corpse flower creates a huge, reeking bloom that lasts only 48 hours. The odor attracts carrion beetles, which will carry away the plant's pollen to nearby corpse flowers.

Once Putrella blooms, the Muttart Conservatory's extended hours will be announced on City of Edmonton social media.

For more information:

Details about Putrella, include a time-lapse video of her previous bloom, can be found at edmonton.ca/corpseflower.

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