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Good stink comes to those who wait: Corpse flower blooms again

April 29, 2017

Media are invited to view Putrella, the Muttart Conservatory's spectacularly smelly corpse flower, which bloomed last night. A Muttart Conservatory grower will be available to answer media questions.

Date: April 29, 2017

Time: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Location: Muttart Conservatory, 9626 96a St NW

When in bloom, Putrella produces an odour similar to rotting meat, attracting beetles and other insect pollinators. The corpse flower also attracts thousands of visitors eager to get a whiff of the nearly seven-foot-tall plant.

Putrella's flower should remain open for approximately 48 hours. To accommodate as many visitors as possible, the Muttart will be open to the public today from 9 a.m.-11 p.m. and reopen tomorrow from 7 a.m.-9 p.m. Vents in the tropical pyramid have also been adjusted to keep Putrella smelling its worst for as long as possible.

The corpse flower (*Amorphophallus titanum*) is the largest flowering plant in the world, growing as tall as 12 feet and often weighing more than 170 pounds. In its native Sumatra, the corpse flower spends years collecting energy through its giant leaves, and storing that energy underground in a bulb-like "corm" that can weigh hundreds of pounds. Once it has gathered enough energy, the corpse flower creates a huge, reeking bloom that lasts only a couple of days. In the wild, the smell of rotting meat attracts carrion beetles, which become covered in pollen that they carry to nearby corpse flowers for reproduction.

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

For more information:

edmonton.ca/muttart/

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