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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MCKEE BOTANICAL GARDEN'S TITAN ARUM COULD BLOOM AT ANY MOMENT**

Rare "Corpse Flower" Expected to Open Within Days; Bloom Lasts Only 24–48 Hours

**VERO BEACH, FL.** — McKee Botanical Garden is closely monitoring one of the world's rarest and most extraordinary plants as its Titan Arum (*Amorphophallus titanum*), commonly known as the "Corpse Flower", prepares to bloom.

The towering flower spike has emerged and is rapidly growing, with horticulturists estimating the bloom could occur within the next several days. Because the exact timing remains unpredictable, Garden staff are encouraging the public and media to follow bloom updates closely and visit often.

Native to the equatorial rainforests of Sumatra, Indonesia, the Titan Arum is celebrated for both its immense size and unusual pollination strategy. During its brief bloom period, which typically lasts only 24 to 48 hours, the plant generates heat and emits a powerful odor resembling rotting flesh. The scent attracts carrion beetles and other insects that serve as pollinators in its native habitat.

"The Titan Arum is one of the botanical world's most remarkable spectacles," said Rochelle Wolberg, Executive Director of McKee Botanical Garden. "For many people, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to witness a bloom in person."

Officially classified as Endangered, fewer than 1,000 Titan Arums are believed to remain in the wild due to ongoing habitat loss and deforestation.

McKee's specimen has been under the care of the Garden's horticulture team since arriving in May 2026. Overseen by Orchid Curator, Luis Ortiz, and Interim Horticulture Manager, Anthony Dronchi, the plant has grown from 2 inches to 41 inches tall in just 25 days.

The anticipated bloom remarkably coincides with McKee Botanical Garden's annual Waterlily Celebration on Saturday June 13, creating an especially exciting weekend for visitors. While bloom timing cannot be guaranteed, guests attending the celebration may have an opportunity to witness one of nature's rarest events.

Bloom updates will be shared regularly through McKee Botanical Garden's social media channels.

For media inquiries, interviews, photographs, or bloom status updates, contact:

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McKee Botanical Garden is the first and oldest visitor attraction in Vero Beach. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places and designated a Florida Heritage Landmark, McKee is also the recipient of The Garden Conservancy's Jean and John Greene Prize for Excellence in American Gardening and is one of only seven gardens in the world with a certified Collection of Excellence by the International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society.

Founded in 1922 by early developers and conservationists Arthur McKee and Waldo Sexton, McKee operated beginning in 1926 as The Royal Park Exotic Nursery and later became an internationally renowned visitor attraction from 1932 until its sale to developers in 1976. The remaining 18 acres of the historic garden were held as collateral until the developer received final payment. When plans were announced to bulldoze what had once been the heart of the garden, an unprecedented community effort emerged to rescue, restore, and reopen the historic property.

Today, McKee Botanical Garden features 10,000 tropical plants, internationally renowned exhibitions, the Treasure Coast's largest holiday light display, JUNGLE LIGHTS, the Children's Garden, the Garden Café, the Garden Gift & Book Shop, and year-round educational programs for adults and children. Supported by more than 7,000 members, hundreds of volunteers, and record-breaking annual attendance, McKee remains a testament to both the resilience of nature and the dedication of the community it serves.