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**GARDENING EXPERT MELINDA MYERS TO APPEAR AT
NEW YORK CITY GROWS GARDEN FESTIVAL**

Myers will Promote Small Space Gardening to Encourage Urban Greening

Milwaukee, Wis. – March 23, 2006 - Horticulture expert and author Melinda Myers will participate in the New York City Grows Garden Festival in Union Square Park on Saturday, April 29, 2006. NYC Grows Garden Festival - a day-long celebration of gardening - is the highlight event of NYC GROWS and the National Gardening Association's National Garden Month 2006.

During the Garden Festival, Myers will also participate in several book signings, including the signing of her recently released national title "*Can't Miss Small Space Gardening*", answer gardeners' questions and have a display of small space gardening "must haves".

Myers hopes the event will encourage people all across the country to garden, no matter how limited their space may be. "I am a big proponent of urban greening," said Myers. "I want to reassure people that no matter how limited their space, they can still beautify the city even if they have a very small lot or balcony."

"As a small space gardener I know the challenges of packing lots of plants and enjoyment into a small space," explains Myers. "The good news – it can be done and it can be lots of fun. Limited space makes you a more discerning gardener and helps bring out the creativity as you find new ways of increasing the beauty of a small space."

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The Garden Festival is open to the public and accessible to all. It will be located adjacent to the popular Greenmarket in Union Square between 14th and 17th Streets. It is designed to attract thousands of people from diverse backgrounds and with broad interests. Dozens of national and regional “green” groups will help celebrate the greening of New York City through inspiring, hands-on gardening demonstrations and activities that will touch the gardener in everyone. The Garden Festival is co- presented by the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation and the National Gardening Association.

Myers, best known for her practical, gardener-friendly approach to gardening, has more than 25 years of horticultural experience in both hands-on and instructional settings. She has a master’s degree in horticulture, is a certified arborist, and is a horticulture instructor at Milwaukee Area Technical College. Outside the classroom, Melinda shares her expertise through a variety of media outlets. She has written numerous books, including *Can’t Miss Small Space Gardening*, and the *Birds and Blooms Ultimate Garden Guide*. She hosts “Great Lakes Gardener,” seen on PBS stations throughout the United States, and appears regularly as a guest expert on various national and local television and radio shows. Myers also writes the twice monthly “Gardeners’ Questions” column for *The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* and is a contributing editor and columnist for *Birds and Blooms* and *Backyard Living* magazines. For her work, community service and media presence, Myers has received recognition and numerous awards, including the 2003 Garden Globe Award for radio talent and the Quill and Trowel Award for her television work, both from the Garden Writers Association. She has also received the Garden Communicator’s Award from the American Nursery and Landscape Association.

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