



COMPASS for PROGRESS

Standards of Excellence in Plant Collections Management



Scope

STANDARD 1

Plant collections reflect and support the institution's mission, and long-range institutional plans.

STANDARD 2

Collections are well-defined, appropriate for the site's growing conditions, facilities, and space, and can be realistically developed given institutional resources.

STANDARD 3

Plants within collection represent broad taxonomic and genetic diversity, with current holdings comprising a minimum of 50% of the stated collection scope.

STANDARD 4

Plants are acquired legally and ethically according to their collection's stated purpose.

STANDARD 5

Plant species are of known wild provenance for greatest conservation value; cultivars are obtained directly or indirectly from breeder/introducer.



Documentation

STANDARD 1

Thorough records are actively maintained for accessioned plants tracking what/where/how plants were obtained, their garden location, and any conditions regarding their acquisition, use, or distribution.

STANDARD 2

Durable accession tags and maps link plants in the collection to their documentation, and to any associated collections of images, herbarium vouchers, and DNA.

STANDARD 3

Periodic field inventories are conducted, records and maps updated, and missing/damaged labels replaced.

STANDARD 4

Records are kept of plant evaluations, verifications of identity and nomenclature, documented use, propagation, and distributions.



Use

STANDARD 1

Reasonable access to the collections and their documentation are provided for researchers, breeders, and other professionals as well as the public, while ensuring the collection's preservation and security.

STANDARD 2

Collection records are shared online through databases to maximize use and facilitate coordination with other collection holders.

STANDARD 3

Plant collections are utilized throughout the institution for education, engagement, evaluation, research, and/or conservation.

STANDARD 4

The institution commits to strengthening staff expertise through ongoing professional development and study of the collections.

STANDARD 5

Strategic partnerships with outside experts, relevant plant societies, and other public gardens are leveraged to maximize collection use and ensure relevance.



Management

STANDARD 1

Living plant collections are maintained for optimum health, and monitored for pests, diseases, and potential invasiveness.

STANDARD 2

High priority collections are safeguarded, documentation frequently backed up offsite, and a disaster plan provided for rapid response and triage of the collection.

STANDARD 3

A recently approved collections policy and development plans for each collection guide decision-making; prioritized maintenance standards and management procedures govern collections care.

STANDARD 4

Long-term institutional support is provided to maintain an active collections program with sufficient funds for acquisitions, documentation, maintenance, and professional curation.



**Plant
Collections
Network**