



**Plant
Collections
Network**

AMERICAN PUBLIC GARDENS ASSOCIATION

Introduction to Plant Collections Network

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American Public Gardens Association

- ❖ Founded in 1940
- ❖ 575 Institutional Members
- ❖ 9000 Individual Members
- ❖ 18 Professional Sections
- ❖ Headquarters in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania
- ❖ www.publicgardens.org

Mission: To serve public gardens and advance them as leaders, advocates, and innovators.



**American
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Association**

Plant Collections Network*

Mission:

- ❖ Coordinate a continent-wide approach to plant germplasm preservation among public gardens and
- ❖ Promote professional standards of plant collections management

*formerly North American Plant Collections Consortium



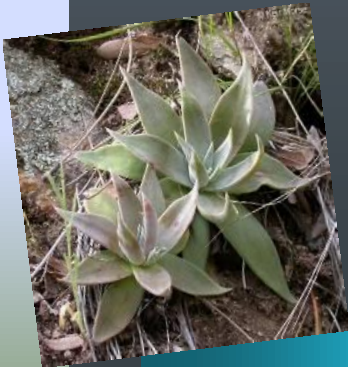
Objectives Supporting APGA Goals

- ❖ Build Awareness – of both Plant Collections Network & value of documented plant collections
- ❖ Promote Standards of Excellence – in plant collections management
- ❖ Expand Diversity of Collections – target existing collections, identify gaps for future collections

Nationally Accredited Plant Collections

Snapshots (Jan 2016 stats):

- ❖ 75 participating gardens
- ❖ 129 Nationally Accredited Plant Collections™
- ❖ 4 Multisite Collections



Multisite Collections

Best approach for...

- ✓ Large taxonomic groups
- ✓ High horticultural & economic significance
- ✓ Diversity sufficient to encourage preservation across a wide range of geographic and climatic conditions in North America



Criteria for Network Participation

- American Public Gardens Association Member
- Active Collections Management Program including plant records database, accession labels, maps
- Long-Term Commitment to maintain collection
- Endorsement of Governing Body
- Current Collection has 50% or more of ultimate collection scope
- Collections Policy
- Curator for Collection
- Access to Collection for research, evaluation and plant introduction

Wide Scope Reflects Diverse Gardens

Woody Ornamentals
Herbaceous Ornamentals
Economic Crops
Natives/ Exotics
Wild Species Conservation
Cultivars & Horticultural Hybrids
Specialty/Thematic Plant Groups

Botanical Gardens

Arboreta

Display Gardens

Conservatories

Estate Gardens

Cemeteries

Zoological Parks



Application and Review Process

- Pre-application Guidance
- Application Submitted
- Reviewed/Approved by Network Manager
- Network Manager assigns Site Reviewer
- Site Visit of Peer Reviewer
- Written Site Evaluation with recommendation
- Recognition of Nationally Accredited Plant Collection™, or 1-3 year Provisional Status

Mt Cuba Center Challenge Grant

- Offsets expenses for applying to Plant Collections Network for accreditation
- 1st-time applicants
- APGA member gardens in North America
- \$1,000 awarded after recognition achieved for a Nationally Accredited Plant Collection™

Elements of an Exemplary Collection

- Active collections policy and planning
- Breadth in taxa and germplasm
- Depth within specialization
- Rigorous record-keeping
- Elevated maintenance practices
- Verification program
- Plants of documented origin
- Cultivars from breeder or verified standard reference
- Taxa of conservation concern
- Staff expertise in collection
- Access to collection
- Plant exploration or evaluation program
- Relevant to science and society

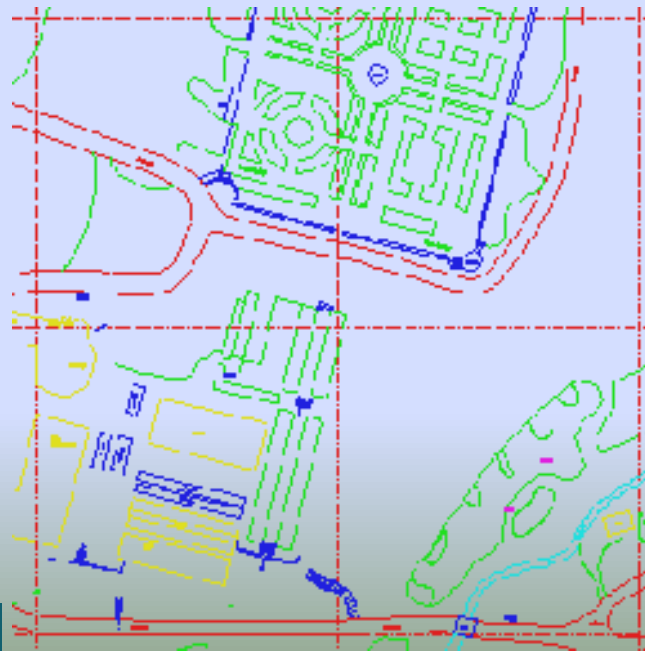
Curatorial Standards Elevated

Available Resources:
Professional Development
Peer Mentoring
Reviewer Training
Online Resources
Electronic Forums



Rigorous Documentation Maintained

Database
Accession Maps
Permanent Labels
Herbarium Vouchers
Digital Images



Threats to Collections Mitigated

Disaster Preparedness for:
Natural/Man-Made Disasters
Theft/vandalism
Natural Senescence
Competing Priorities
Loss of Records



Collections Safeguarded

- ✓ Replicates at your institution
- ✓ Replicates at other gardens
 - Consider proximity
 - Agreement for replacing propagules
- ✓ Herbarium vouchers
- ✓ Seedbanks/Clonal Repositories
- ✓ Records kept offsite



Partnership with USDA since 1985

American Public Gardens Association



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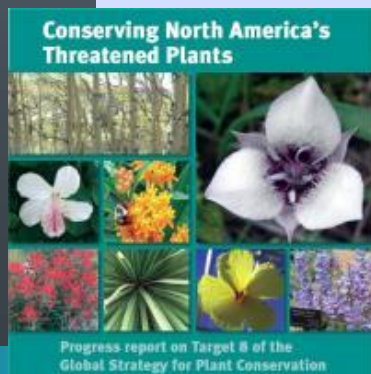
USDA Agriculture Research Service



Collaborations Advancing Conservation

Activities:

- ✓ Coordinating *ex situ* collections
- ✓ Exchanging & collecting germplasm
- ✓ Sharing information & expertise
- ✓ Developing & implementing strategies



Tree Gene Conservation Project

- ❖ US Forest Service – Forest Health Protection Division
- ❖ Focused on at-risk US forest species which can't be traditionally seedbanked
- ❖ American Public Gardens Association funded four collecting trips in 2015
- ❖ Partnership extended through 2017



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Plant Collections Network

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FOR MORE INFO CONTACT...

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