

5/18/05  
THE HOLDEN ARBORETUM  
PLANT COLLECTIONS POLICY

### HOLDEN'S MISSION

The Holden Arboretum connects people with nature for inspiration and enjoyment, fosters learning and promotes conservation. One way in which it achieves this mission is by "Acquiring, displaying and maintaining documented horticultural collections".

### SCOPE

The term collection is interpreted to include both the plants in the gardens and in the traditional long-term plant collections that are individually focused on a genus (e.g. *Ilex* - holly), family (e.g. Pinaceae – Conifer Collection) or functional theme (e.g. the Hedge Collection). These are not mutually exclusive entities: A genus or themed collection may be contained within a garden, such as occurs with Holden's Rhododendron Collection. While gardens include combinations of woody and herbaceous plants to provide enhanced interest, the themed plant collections are concentrated on woody plants. The exception to this is the collection of native species contained within Holden's Wildflower Garden, where the intent is to display both herbaceous and woody plants native to Ohio and those rare plants of our region that are sponsored by the Center for Plant Conservation.

### COLLECTION OBJECTIVES

We collect and display a diversity of plants for evaluation, enjoyment and educational purposes, in order to convey sustainable plant choices recommended for our region. By sustainable, we mean plants that are:

- adapted to our soils and climatic extremes, e.g. winter hardy
- free from chronic diseases and significant pests
- non-invasive of natural areas

Because of the important educational role of the plant collections, it is vital that the planning and interpretation of plant collections and gardens be a collaborative process that involves staff of the Education Department as well as those of Horticulture. All themed collections and gardens will be accessible to visitors and designed for self-direction.

### ACQUISITION

Themed plant collections are intended to highlight diversity within a taxonomic or functional group and to provide a location where the performance of uncommon species or new selections can be evaluated alongside familiar species and standard cultivars. Gardens will feature the plants that we would recommend as the most ornamental and sustainable choices for landscapes in our region, and will draw partly upon evaluations of plant performance in the themed collections. Plants will be acquired and added to the collection based upon potential or demonstrated worth under the criteria of sustainability and functional and/or ornamental value. In the case of a new accession for which the potential to be invasive is not known, those plants will first be grown on a small scale and monitored so that their invasive potential can be assessed before they are

considered for a larger scale of cultivation or distribution. The Holden Arboretum will not add plants to its collection that are known to be invasive in this region\* except on a very limited scale and under controlled conditions for interpretive purposes.

In order to display genetic diversity and provide value for evaluators, researchers and interpreters, priority is given to obtaining representatives of species from documented wild sources for the taxonomic collections and when possible for the gardens. The acquisition of plants from wild sources will be conducted in a manner consistent with the Convention on Biological Diversity and in compliance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and all applicable national and state laws. Plant acquisition is the responsibility of the Chief Horticulturist.

### PLANT RECORDS

Upon arrival, each plant and propagule (seed, cutting or scion) acquired for the collections is given an accession number, and complete details about origin are recorded. Each plant is labeled with its name and accession number. An annual inventory of the plants in the nursery gives rise to a list of plants ready for planting into the collections. After planting, the location of each plant is recorded. Thereafter at one to four year intervals the plants in each garden or collection are inventoried. Inventory consists of recording whether the plant is present, rating its physical condition, and taking dimensional measurements. These activities are the responsibility of the Plant Records Curator.

### USE OF COLLECTIONS FOR RESEARCH / RESEARCH COLLECTIONS

Use of plants in the collections by research scientists is desired and encouraged, provided the use does not impact the health of the plants or their accessibility to our guests. A research plant collection is assembled by a scientist solely to support a specific investigation, and is disbanded at the completion or discontinuation of the project. Research collections are not considered to be a part of the permanent horticultural collections, and maintaining the records related to a research collection are the responsibility of the researcher involved. When desired and appropriate, selected plants from research collections can be added to the permanent collections.

### THE HERBARIUM

Herbarium specimens are made from plants in the collection as a permanent, preserved record of an accession in flower or fruit, for the purposes of documentation and verification of identity. They provide year-round access to characters necessary for identification that can only be observed seasonally in living specimens, and are a lasting record of accessions for which no living specimens remain. As such, the Herbarium supports the integrity and credibility of the plant collections. Operation and management of the Herbarium is the responsibility of the Plant Records Curator.

### DEACCESSIONING

Plants that die are removed as a normal part of maintenance, and are reported to the Plant Records Curator. Deaccessioning is the removal of an individual living plant, an entire accession or a whole themed collection or garden from the collections. The decision to remove an individual plant or accession is the responsibility of the Chief Horticulturist. A recommendation to deaccession a whole collection or garden must be approved by the Director of Horticulture and

Facilities. Where potentially unique accessions are to be deaccessioned, propagules will be offered to appropriate sister institutions and removal of the plants will be delayed for a reasonable period to insure successful propagation.

#### NEW COLLECTIONS AND GARDENS

Any proposal for the creation of a new garden or themed collection must go through the project management process for consideration and approval.

#### ADMINISTRATION

In order to assure that this policy remains useful and current, it will be reviewed every 5 years by a group that includes the Director of Horticulture, Chief Horticulturist and appropriate leadership from the Departments of Conservation, Education and Research. If changed, the policy will be presented to the Committee on Plants and the Board for approval. Every 2 years, the Director of Horticulture will coordinate refresher sessions to review this policy with all pertinent staff and volunteers for the sake of continuity and adherence. A review of the policy will be incorporated into the orientation for Board Directors.

#### APPENDIX\*

Species Listed as Invasive in Ohio by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources

##### **Targeted Species**

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)  
Autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*)  
Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)  
Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*)  
Morrow honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrowii*)  
Tatarian honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*)  
Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)  
Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*)  
Reed grass (*Phragmites australis*)  
Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)  
European buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)  
Glossy buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*)  
Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*)