

Leach Botanical Garden  
Plant Collections Policy  
Effective September 2011

I. Introduction and Purpose:

The Plant Collections Policy is to reflect the mission of Leach Botanical Garden. It shall be the guiding document for all botanical and horticultural activities in the Garden and be made available to other botanical institutions or the public for review. The Collection Policy should be revised when major changes occur within the Garden and/or organization, changes in City policies and/or other regulatory changes. The purpose of this policy is to define the plant collections at Leach Botanical Garden and to establish management procedures for the stewardship of those collections.

This policy will be overseen by the Plant Committee, which will propose any changes or revisions to the policy. Any revisions must be approved by the Board of Directors. It is the responsibility of the curator to ensure the day-to-day adherence to this policy.

II. Collection Description

Plant collections at the Garden will be used for the study of botany, horticulture and ecology of the Northwest region of the U.S., and to preserve the botanical and horticultural legacy of Lilla and John Leach. There are three defined permanent collections.

- A. Northwest Natives – The native plant collection of the Leach Botanical Garden is defined as those plants that occur naturally within the borders of the state of Oregon before European settlement. The focus will be on plants that are compatible with the climate and growing conditions of the Garden.
- B. The Historic Leach Collection – To be consistent with the mission of preserving the essence of the Leach Historic Collection, the following species and collections are to be cared for, replaced and/or augmented to complete and enrich the Historic Collection.

The Historic Leach Collection is to include the following species discovered and attributed to the Leaches:

- *Iris innominata*
- *Kalmiopsis leachiana*
- *Sedum moranii*
- *Sophora leachiana*
- *Triteleia hendersonii* v. *leachiae*

In addition to the discoveries, the Historic Leach Collection is to include but is not limited to the following groupings that were of special interest to the Leaches:

- Plants native to SE USA
- Camellia

- Medicinals
- Ferns
- Winter interest

C. Taxonomic families and/or genera that complement the above collections and add horticultural diversity to the garden.

### III. Collection Organization

The three collections in the Garden may be planted and displayed in a variety of ways, these include:

- a. Within representative of habitat types or ecological niches [Xeric, Moist Coniferous Woods, Riparian Habitat, Dry Shade, Sub-alpine.....]
- b. Taxonomically by family or genera [*Liliaceae*, *Hamamelis*, *Iris innominata*....]
- c. Descriptively by plant type or other specific characteristics [winter interest, plants that benefit wildlife, medicinal herbs.....]

### IV. Acquisitions and Additions to Collection

- a. A list of suitable additions to the plant collection shall be developed and maintained by the plant Committee.
- b. Additions shall fall under one or more of the following categories:
  - new taxa for the Garden
  - replacement of undocumented or poorly documented material
  - replacement with well documented wild collected species
- c. While well-documented wild collected species is preferred, aesthetics should play a considerable role in deciding to replace a poorly documented specimen with one of outstanding ornamental value.
- d. Plants can be collected from the wild, purchased, exchanged or accepted as donations. Collections from the wild should be done in an ethical and legal manner, adhering to applicable laws and regulations.
- e. Donations and gifts of plant materials that fall outside the scope of the Garden's collections must be approved by the Plant Committee and can be managed in one of the following ways:
  - Accessioned and added to the permanent collection
  - Incorporated into the display plantings
  - Sold, with the proceeds to benefit the operation of the garden
  - Distributed to other botanical institution

Donations and gifts of plant material that cannot be managed in one of these ways, it shall not be accepted by the Garden. If a donation or gift is to be sold or distributed to another botanical institution, the donor shall be notified prior to the Garden's acceptance of the plant material(s).

- f. The accession of plants outside the scope of the permanent collection shall be approved by the Plant Committee prior to accessioning.

### V. Temporary Plant Collections

- a. Plants of a temporary nature may be accepted for:
  - Seasonal display in informal areas around the entry driveway, manor house and east terrace

- Demonstration gardens in the nursery area
- b. Temporary collections must be approved by the curator or Head Gardener

#### VI. Record System(s)

Leach Botanical Garden is committed to maintaining a comprehensive plant records system. The curator is responsible for the administration and accuracy of the plant records, including accession information and an on-going inventory of plants in the collections.

All plants designated for the permanent collection will be accessioned upon arrival into the garden and will receive a garden accession number (yyyy.xxxx.). Accessions having more than one plant attached to it will have a sub-category applied. ( yyyy.xxxx.sss).

Seeds, cutting material or other propagules, plants of uncertain origin, or requiring additional identification/ verification prior to acceptance into the permanent collections will receive a nursery accession number. (Nyyyy.xxxx). Once a plant is verified and determined to be appropriate for the collection, a permanent garden accession number will be assigned.

Exemptions from the accessioning process are those plants that will not become part of the permanent collection such as temporary collections, plants for plant sales, special oddities, and seasonal plants.

Plants within the permanent collection which are moved from one location to another shall have their new location recorded in the planting record.

Every plant in the Garden's collections will be given a permanent identification tag, which will include (at minimum) the accession number and code for the plant.

- The following minimum information shall be maintained for each accessioned plant: scientific name, accession number, donor source, geographic source, location in the garden/collection and date acquired.
- All herbarium specimens and photos of accessioned plants will be assigned and labeled with the same accession number.
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#### VII. Stewardship of Collection

Leach Botanical Garden will take all responsible measures to safeguard the plant collections and collection records from loss or harm. Care of the Garden's plant collection is the responsibility of the head gardener, who shall determine the schedule of maintenance activities in the Garden.

a. Priority maintenance activities are:

- Water and weed to the minimum standard necessary to preserve the collections
- Identification and correction of safety hazards
- Adequate care of rare and endangered plants
- Upkeep of collections around the Manor House and other areas of aesthetic appeal

b. Pesticide Practices

The Garden will limit the use of pesticides and practice integrated pest management. The Garden will adhere to state and local regulations regarding pesticide use. Applicators are to hold a public applicator's license issued by the State of Oregon.

c. Stewardship Principals

Garden maintenance practices shall emphasize sound ecological stewardship of the garden. This may include IPM techniques, use of organic fertilizers, no-till soil practices, leaving organic detritus in place, maintaining shrubby and herbaceous borders for beneficial insects and wildlife, low-impact irrigation practices and ground water runoff controls.

d. Poisonous or Harmful Plants

Poisonous or harmful plants that are part of the collections do not need to be removed as a liability, but should be labeled as potentially dangerous.

e. Identification Tags

Each plant in the Garden's collection will be given a permanent identification tag that will include (at minimum) the accession number and plant name.

VIII. Invasive Species Statement

Using the 2010 Portland Plant List ( Section on Nuisance Plant Lists and Required Eradication Lists) as a guide, species known to be invasive in Oregon and Washington will not be added to the permanent collection. Species in the current collection are to be assessed for the risk of becoming invasive. Those plants will be removed from the collection and destroyed. Prior to removal, Garden staff will develop, use and promote a list of acceptable non-invasive plants with similar landscape use as the offending plant (s).

The Leach Botanical Garden will not distribute and/or sell plants, seeds or other propagules that are considered invasive in the Portland Metropolitan area. The Garden will work to control species that are invasive of native habitat areas, specifically along Johnson Creek.

IX. Evaluation of Collections

Plant collections will be evaluated every five years by the Garden staff and Plant Committee for recommended maintenance changes, deaccessioning, repropagation and/or other necessary activities or projects. The evaluation will be documented in writing and shall include date, assessment of general health of each collection identified in section II., and any recommendations for improvement of specific collections or individual species.

X. Access to Collection

- a. No plant materials of any kind may be taken from the Garden without written, signed permission of the curator or head gardener, except for plant materials intended for off-site sales to benefit the Garden.
  - No plant material from Leach Botanical Garden may be named without the written permission of the Leach garden Board of Directors and City of Portland Parks and Recreation.
- b. Seed and plant material from Leach Botanical Garden shall be distributed under conditions that comply with the International Convention of Biological Diversity, especially those activities referring to the exchange of plant material. These conditions include:
  - Plant material is used solely for scientific research, conservation of species, and development of recognized plant collections.

- In the case of commercial use of genetic materials and the products or research derived from it, the user shall inform and seek permission from Leach Botanical Garden prior to the development, use or distribution of information or products.

XI. Deaccessioning and Disposal of Plants from Collection

A plant may be deaccessioned due to death, disease, encroachment on the surrounding plants, inappropriateness to the collection, excess of clone, and/or loss or unknown documentation. The Plant Committee shall make decisions to deaccession, except in the case of death or disease, in which case the Garden staff may decide to deaccession. An exception to this policy is rare, endangered and heritage (those that can be traced to the original Leach garden) plants, which shall not be deaccessioned until their status elsewhere in the Garden has been determined.

- Plants to be disposed of may be sold, donated, exchanged or destroyed. Garden staff shall determine which disposal method is most appropriate.
- Rare and endangered plants shall not be destroyed, except in the case of disease, but shall be distributed to other public institutions.