

Plant Collections Policy

Revised November 2021

Plant Collections Mission

To support the educational and strategic goals of Reiman Gardens through permanent*, accessioned plant displays that complement the rotating annual displays.

**Permanent: Plants that are intended to remain in Gardens for at least two years.*

Botanical Objectives

- Collect plants that have relevancy to the state of Iowa and Iowa State University faculty and students.
- Display permanent plant collections that perform well in central Iowa.
- Encourage good stewardship and sustainable practices by displaying plants with disease resistance and wildlife benefits.
- Trial new plant materials in the Gardens to continually increase our collections diversity.
- Conserve and give long-term priority to important living collections, including the Buck Rose Collection recognized by the Plant Collections Network (PCN) using the best known maintenance techniques.
- Collect plants to support and interpret the missions and goals of individual gardens.

Notable Collections

- Iowa State University horticultural introductions
- Viburnums
- Pollinator and Nectar plants
- Bulbs
- Buck roses

Accessions

Material will be acquired from the following sources:

- Reputable and/or established nurseries
- Reputable and/or established seed companies
- Donated plants from private individuals or collections that meet Gardens' or individual garden's mission requirements and whose identity is documented
- Donated plants or plant parts for propagation from public institutions such as other public gardens and arboreta, universities, museums
- Wild collected

To be accessioned into the plant collection:

- The plant must support the botanical objectives of the garden area in which it is located.
- The plant must be accurately identified.
- The plant must be healthy and free from disease and pests.
- The plant must not be of questionable provenance

- The plant's acquisition method must be in alignment with CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) and CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity)

De-accessions

Plants will be de-accessioned from the collection if:

- The plant does not support the Gardens' or individual garden's botanical objectives.
- The plant cannot be identified.
- The plant is diseased, has died, is lost/stolen, or proves to be invasive.
- The plant can be replaced by one that has more desirable characteristics.
- The plant fails to thrive, as judged by the Horticulture staff.
- The plant evolves to be an invasive species that cannot be managed.

All de-accessions must be approved by Manager of Horticulture.

Plant Records

All permanent plant materials will be entered into Reiman Gardens' Plant Collections Database, including all known information about the plant and its origin. The Manager of Horticulture is responsible for oversight of the plant database.

At minimum, all accession records should include:

- Accession number
- Botanical name (genus, specific epithet, variety)
- Cultivar
- Common name
- Trademark name
- Family name
- Nativity
- Source
- Location in the Gardens
- # of plants originally planted
- If additional information, such as contact person at nursery, plant size, etc. is known, it should also be recorded.

For the benefit of our visitors, volunteers and staff, we will label all accessioned plants and make a reasonable attempt to label non-accessioned plants such as plants in the seasonal displays.

One accession qualifier will be provided for each tree, shrub, and group of perennials of the same identity in the same location.

Display labels with botanical name, common name, and cultivar name (when applicable) will be used to label all permanent plant specimens or groups in the garden.

Common names will be used consistently throughout the Garden in the database and labels. If the plant is trademarked or part of a series, the trademark or series name will be placed with the common name.

Nomenclature Resources

Reiman Gardens' staff will identify and classify plants to the best of its ability using these taxonomic references:

- International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants
- GRIN Database – <https://npgsweb.ars-grin.gov/gringlobal/taxon/taxonomysimple>
- USDA Plants - <http://plants.usda.gov/>
- International Plant Names Index (IPNI) - <http://www.ipni.org/>
- International Cultivar Registration Authorities - <https://www.ishs.org/>
- Flora of North America (or China, etc) - <http://www.efloras.org/>
- The Manual of Woody Landscape Plants by Michael Dirr
- Herbaceous Perennial Plants by Allan Armitage

Other references may be used if they are deemed by the Manager of Horticulture as a more accurate source of information. (Using the *Eureka Daylily Reference Guide, 2007* to identify a daylily, for example)

Access

The plant collections are intended to be enjoyed by all Gardens visitors. Plant accession records are available to all interested parties at the discretion of the Manager of Horticulture and through Web-VQF.

Access to plant propagation material, such as cuttings or divisions, is available to established and reputable universities, green industry companies (i.e. nurseries, greenhouses), and public gardens for use in plant research and development. Access to plant material is under the discretion and requires the approval of the Manager of Horticulture.

The collection of any plant material must be coordinated so that a full-time horticulture staff person or the plant collections coordinator accompanies the individual to assure that the plants/propagules are appropriately taken.

The intended use of any plant material must follow any plant patent guidelines.

Access of plant material to the general public, staff, volunteers, and CoHorts is at the discretion of the Manager of Horticulture.

Research

The use of Reiman Gardens and its collections by Iowa State University, other universities, the green industry, and public gardens for research purposes is welcomed. All research initiatives at the Gardens must

- Align with the Gardens' mission
- Complete a "Research Application" form and a "Research Agreement" form
- Be approved by the Manager of Horticulture
- Be labeled as a research area/plant

Plants installed for the sole purpose of research may only remain in the Gardens at the conclusion of the study at the discretion of the Manager of Horticulture.

Plants installed at the Gardens for the sole use of research will not be accessioned, unless they remain in the Gardens at the conclusion of the study.

Periodic Reporting

Reiman Gardens will make all reasonable attempts to periodically report on the state of the plant collections and plant collections program. This report will be available to all visitors, members and the public. It will report on significant changes (acquisitions or removals) within the collection, collection program goals and any other information the Manager of Horticulture or Plant Collections Coordinator see fit for sharing with the public.

Vouchering

If a plant is deemed to have educational, historical, or conservational value it should be considered for vouchering at the Ada Hayden Herbarium located in Bessey Hall on the Iowa State University Campus.

Plant Inventories

The Plant Collections Staff and Volunteers will check the accuracy and validity of the information in the Plant Collections database by performing walking inventories in each garden every other year.