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- ✓ Plant Conservation Day is May 18. Find out more at www.plantconservationday.org.
- ✓ As many as 100,000 plants are at risk of extinction.
- ✓ You, as a gardener, can play a personal and important role in helping to save plants in your own backyard. In fact, gardens are the last refuge for a few dozen plants that are now extinct in their natural habitats, such as the Franklin tree, Sprenger's tulip, and chocolate-scented cosmos.

The plants most threatened by collection from the wild for sale in the nursery trade include:

Orchids
Cacti and succulents
Bulbs
Carnivorous plants
Native wildflowers
Cycads

Photos: Jim Popenoe, BBG, Dan Shepherd, Kevin Adams (kadamsphoto.com)

✂️ **Clip this card and keep it with you.**

Plant for the Planet!

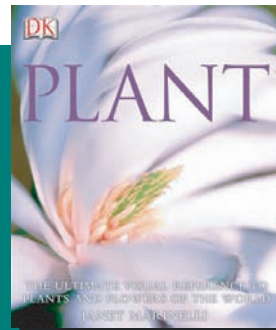
Carry this card with you when you purchase plants or travel. Be especially cautious when buying the following, purchasing only nursery-propagated plants:

- ✓ Orchids
- ✓ Cacti and succulents
- ✓ Bulbs
- ✓ Cycads
- ✓ Native wildflowers
- ✓ Carnivorous plants

www.plantfortheplanet.org

THE NATIONAL GARDENING ASSOCIATION
GROW
www.garden.org

When you plant for the planet, you grow for the future. Help kids grow by adopting a school garden today.



An unadulterated celebration of the world's flora, from the everyday daffodil to the rarest orchid, *Plant* features an extensive encyclopedia of 2,000 of the most spectacular and threatened plants on the planet.

This unprecedented reference gives you both the horticultural and conservation information you need to make your gardens and greenhouses a part of the great green ark.

Look for *Plant* at a bookstore or botanic garden near you. Proceeds from the sales will help fund urgent plant conservation work.

Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) mobilizes the world's botanic gardens and engages our global partners to secure plant diversity for the well-being of people and the planet through a network of over 800 botanic gardens in 116 countries. Please support our efforts by becoming a Friend of BGCI. Join today! www.bgci.org



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✓ **Plant for the Planet!**

A PLANT CONSERVATION CHECKLIST FOR GARDENERS

Learn how you can help save threatened plants!



BGCI

Plant for the Planet!

A checklist

For detailed information, including conservation and growing information on 2,000 threatened plants, consult *Plant* (see back panel for more information) and go to www.plantfortheplanet.org.

- Know the conservation status of the plant species you choose to grow.
A large number of the plants you grow in your gardens and that are available in nurseries are threatened in their native wild habitats around the world. By knowing which plants these are you can be an informed gardening consumer and better able to make decisions that can help save these threatened plants.
- Know the laws that protect wild plants and how they affect you.
A permit is required to bring home from abroad or obtain from overseas suppliers any plant protected under CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species). Local and national laws including the U.S. Endangered Species Act and the Lacey Act also regulate the sale of threatened plants.
- To help protect wild plant populations, think conservation when buying plants, bulbs, and other plant materials.
Never buy a plant that has been illegally dug up from the wild. Plants most likely to be wild collected are orchids, cacti and succulents, bulbs, carnivorous plants, cycads, and native wildflowers. Look for plant labels that say

"nursery propagated" or "from cultivated stock." (Beware ambiguous wording such as "nursery grown," which may mean that a plant has been stolen from the wild, then grown on in a nursery.) If a plant's origin is unclear, ask the vendor; when in doubt, do not buy. Even better, give your business to sources who actively work to conserve threatened plants.

- When possible, purchase plants that have been propagated sexually (by seed) to help maintain the genetic health of threatened plants.

Many plants in the nursery trade are clones propagated in ways that eliminate genetic variation. The genetic diversity of threatened plants is best served when they are grown from seed. Before buying them, ask how the plants have been propagated.

- Be as diligent about documenting the origins of any threatened plants in your garden or greenhouse as you are about growing them.

There are some plants that are so critically endangered in the wild that specimens in private gardens could be an important source of germplasm for future conservation efforts. A detailed record of their provenance, or origin, increases the conservation value of the threatened plants you grow. Conservation-minded suppliers of seed or plants can provide such information.

- Make your garden a refuge for native wildflowers and wildlife.

By using native species in plantings modeled after local plant communities such as forests or prairies, you can do your part to help compensate for the loss and fragmentation of habitat, and nurture birds, butterflies, and other pollinators and seed dispersers. And don't forget — to avoid threatening plants indirectly by damaging their pollinators and native habitats, don't use toxic pesticides, don't overfertilize, and choose plants to minimize water use.

- Never grow plants that are invasive or potentially invasive.

Many common garden plants can become invasive. Invasive plants spread out of control in the wild, threatening native plants and animals. Remove these plants from your garden. The best way to avoid introducing a new invasive plant is to select trees, shrubs, and wildflowers native to your area.

- Make the most of your green thumb — volunteer to assist conservation work at a botanic garden or other group.

From propagating threatened species to removing invasive plants, the amount of work required to save the estimated 100,000 imperiled plants worldwide is staggering. Botanic gardens and other groups rely on volunteers to help get the work done. Visit www.planetfortheplanet.org to find botanic gardens near you.

- Support local, national, and international plant conservation efforts.

Become a member of your botanic garden and other groups involved in plant conservation and habitat preservation. Let your government officials know plant conservation is important to you.

- Be an ecotourist — support sustainable use of plants when you travel.

Ecotourism is travel that contributes to the protection of critical habitat and sustains local communities. Choices range from small-scale tours to large resorts.

Remember, when in doubt, don't buy!

Ask:

- ✓ Is this a threatened plant?
- ✓ Has it been nursery-propagated, not collected from the wild?
- ✓ Do I need any special documents or permits?
- ✓ Is this plant invasive or potentially invasive?



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