

In the past...

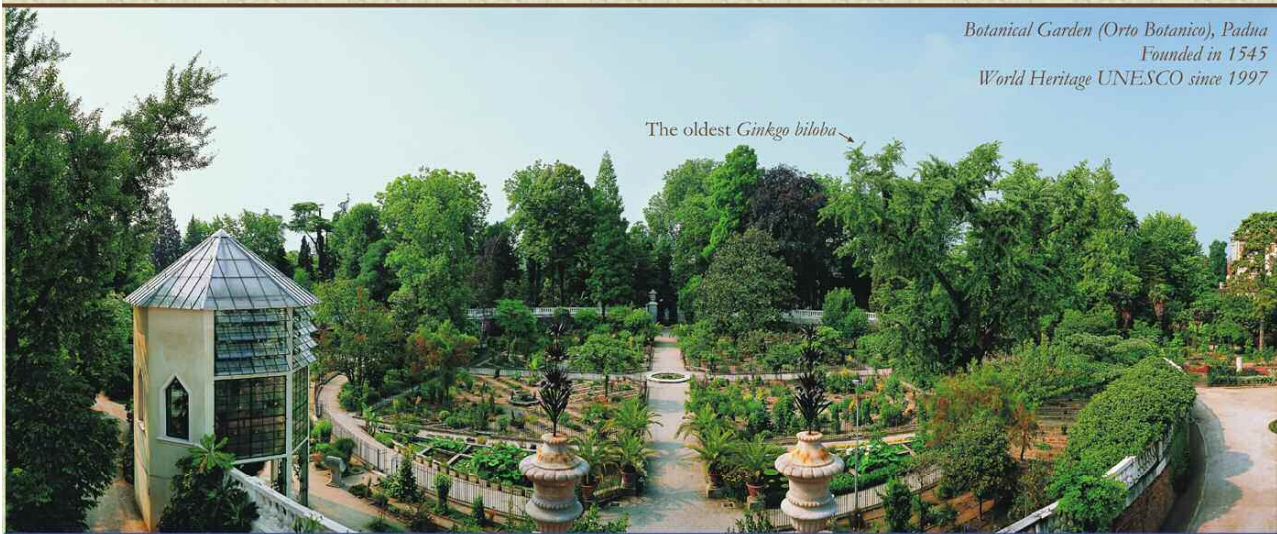
From the historic archive kept at the Orto Botanico of the University of Padua, the oldest *Ginkgo biloba*, a male specimen, was planted in the Garden between 1750 and 1760.

The first written record of its presence can be found in a manuscript dated 1801.



A branch of this male plant was grafted with a female scion around the year 1850.

The first documentation of *Ginkgo* seeds collected in the Garden is to be found in the *Index seminum* of 1857, under the scientific name of *Salsburia adiantifolia*.



Botanical Garden (Orto Botanico), Padua
Founded in 1545
World Heritage UNESCO since 1997

At present...

The female part, grown from the graft, has become nowadays a big branch, 125 cm in girth (measured at 10 cm from the basis). The female branch caused a natural graft, that was later separated from the original female branch. Therefore, on this historic *Ginkgo* tree, the original scion and two additional small female branches (separated from the original scion) which produce plenty of seeds, can be found.



One of the natural grafted female branches



The original female scion

In September 2004, the Ohatsuki phenomenon was observed for the first time on the naturally grafted scion. This means that ovules were present on the leaf margin, a feature very rare in Europe and generally observed only on multi-century ginkgos.



To preserve this historic specimen, some technological solutions are applied:

- since 2005, periodical root monitoring using the minirhizotron system. It consists in displaying the root status by means of a camera inserted in the soil through polycarbonate tubes (root endoscopy);
- light pruning of the crown associated with stability controls. Some anchor bands have been applied using tree climbing techniques;
- a protection area under the crown was created in order to avoid problems connected with overstepping.

