



Garden in the north – a very educational experience

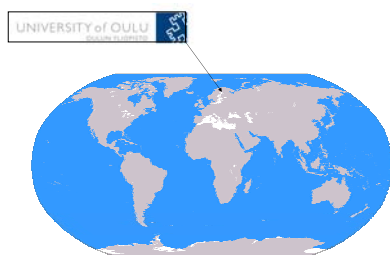
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Botanical Gardens University of Oulu, Finland

is one of the northernmost botanical gardens in the world located 200 km south of the Arctic Circle.

Location	65°01'N, 25°28'E
Mean temperature (1971-2000)	2.4° C
Precipitation	446 mm
Snow cover	20 Nov to 30 Apr
Growing season	150 days
Day length	December 3 h 35 min June 22 h 02 min



The Botanical Gardens is a research-led unit supporting scientific research and education within a wide range of biological disciplines from conservation biology to genetic engineering. Extensive collections, in which e.g. one third of Finnish native taxa are represented together with thousands of more exotic plants, are widely used for education and research.



Research

Conservation

Ex situ conservation of rare northern plants is one of the main challenges for the garden in the future. The most urgent task is to find feasible *ex situ* conservation methods for endangered salt marsh species.



Primula nutans ssp. *finmarchica* var. *jokelae*
photo: Lassi Kalleinen

Hardy plants for landscaping

Efficient *in vitro* production of plant material for research, teaching and landscaping is enabled by the facilities of our biotechnology lab. The most famous new accession micropropagated for horticultural use is the red-leaved downy birch.



Experimental fields

One important way to support research is to provide experimental fields for common garden experiments. These fields have a meteorological station, open top-chambers for pollution research and other experimental equipments.

Education

University and schools

More than thirty university courses are based on our living plant collections. Students are also able to base their master's or doctor's theses on permanent collections or other cultivated material.

Moreover, primary education is supported by an Internet portal with botanical questions and tasks for schoolchildren.



Awareness of plant diversity

During the long and dark northern winter, greenhouse collections and associated special exhibitions provide a breath of fresh air from more benign climates. These exhibitions together with guided tours and popular articles are the main means to enhance public awareness on plant diversity and the sustainable use of plants.



Red-leaved downy birch
Betula pubescens Ehrh. f. *rubra* Ulvinen

