

Recovering North Carolina's Rare Plants

Over 40 years ago, the North Carolina Botanical Garden introduced and began promoting **conservation through propagation**—the practice of propagating native plants, for use in the garden and landscape, via seeds and cuttings as an alternative to the then widespread practice of wild-collection of native plants. Today, we continue that important work as well as other programs that support the restoration and recovery of our native flora.

Other early Garden initiatives included the establishment of a membership support organization, the Botanical Garden Foundation, Inc., to hold conservation lands and support the Garden's mission (1966); helping establish the Plant Conservation Program in the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (1979); and becoming a founding member of the national Center for Plant Conservation (1984). Please see the Garden's web page (www.ncbg.unc.edu), under the About Us tab, for a more complete history and profile of our conservation activities.

Rare plant reintroduction and monitoring programs at the Garden include reintroduction of harperella (*Ptilimnium nodosum*, an Endangered species) to a historical location on the Deep River; augmentation of small populations of the sandhills lily (*Lilium pyrophyllum*, a recently described narrow endemic species) with plants propagated from that population; translocation of rough-leaved loosetrife (*Lysimachia asperulifolia*, an Endangered species) from highway project areas; and introduction of smooth coneflower (*Echinacea laevigata*, an Endangered species) to appropriate habitats within its historical range.



The North Carolina Botanical Garden also oversees the conservation and management of approximately 900 acres of natural areas—many of which contain rare plants—where we control invasive species and use prescribed fire (where appropriate) to rehabilitate and expand natural communities.

	TOTAL	N.C. STATUS				U.S. STATUS			
		E	T	SC	SR	E	T	C	FSC
Flowering Plants	4,247	109	46	20	529	17	9	5	99
Mosses	440	5	1	-	122	-	-	-	3
Liverworts	225	2	-	-	62	-	-	-	7
Hornworts	9	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
Lichens	853	1	1	-	22	1	-	-	2
Total	5,774	117	48	20	737	18	9	5	112

Approximate number of rare plants in N.C., based on the 2010 NC Natural Heritage Pgm. Rare Plant List. NC and US species status codes: E= Endangered, T=Threatened, SC=Special Concern, SR=State Rare, C=Candidate, FSC=Federal Species of Concern.

... to inspire understanding, appreciation, and conservation of plants in gardens and natural areas and to advance a sustainable relationship between people and nature.

—from the mission of the North Carolina Botanical Garden



Planting Pickering's dawnflower (*Stylisma pickeringii* var. *pickeringii*) in a sand barren—this rare plant's typical habitat.

On the front of this brochure. . .
Top: Mountain sweet pitcher plant (*Sarracenia jonesii*). Bottom: reintroduction activities for harperella (*Ptilimnium nodosum*) along the Deep River, NC. all photos by Johnny Randall

Rare Plant Programs



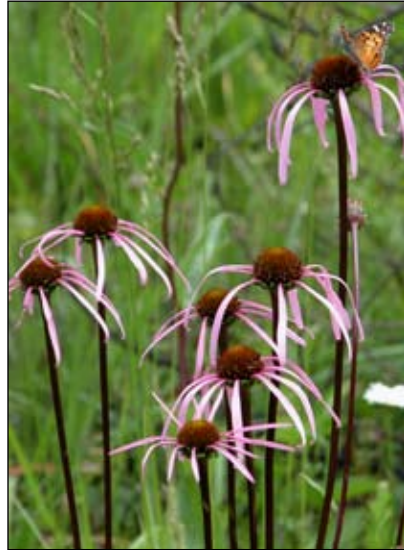
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at the
NORTH CAROLINA
BOTANICAL GARDEN

Conserving rare plants through germplasm storage, reintroduction, and recovery . . . *at the North Carolina Botanical Garden*

Cooperating organizations & agencies

- NC Plant Conservation Program
- The Nature Conservancy
- NatureServe
- NC Natural Heritage Program
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service
- National Park Service
- Center for Plant Conservation
- Botanic Gardens Conservation International



What you can do

✓ Ensure that plants you acquire for your landscape have been propagated by seeds or cuttings rather than collected from the wild.

- ✓ Avoid planting known or potentially invasive plants (check with your state Exotic Pest Plant Council or Native Plant Society).
- ✓ Determine if your property contains significant natural areas (refer to your county Natural Areas Inventory, available from the Natural Heritage Program).
- ✓ Inventory your property for rare plants or high quality natural areas.
- ✓ Contribute conservation easements on lands containing rare plants or if you are adjacent to high quality natural areas.
- ✓ Support local, state, and regional plant conservation organizations and efforts.
- ✓ Contribute to the North Carolina Botanical Garden's Conservation Fund, or inquire about sponsoring one of the imperiled plants in the CPC National Collection of Endangered Species.

Center for Plant Conservation (CPC)

This consortium of 36 botanical gardens across the country holds the National Collection of Endangered Plants *ex situ* (off site) to safeguard against extinction in the wild and to provide plant material for legitimate reintroduction projects and research. CPC member gardens also have active reintroduction programs for many of the over 700 National Collection species.

As a founding Participating Institution of CPC in 1984, the Garden currently stores seeds and/or whole plants of 39 of the rarest plants of the Southeast.

Seeds of Success & Millennium Seed Bank

The Garden participates in these germplasm programs, which help to ensure that the more common plants that form the matrix of plant communities are collected, stored, and available to rehabilitate the natural communities within which many rare plants occur.



Pictured this page, clockwise from upper left: smooth coneflower (*Echinacea laevigata*); Peter's Mountain mallow (*Iliamna corei*); sandhills lily (*Lilium pyrophyllum*); Botanical Garden staff and student interns monitoring harperella reintroduction success; and cleaning, processing, and cataloging of seeds.

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