

PlantSearch Accessions

July 2026 Updated Release Notes

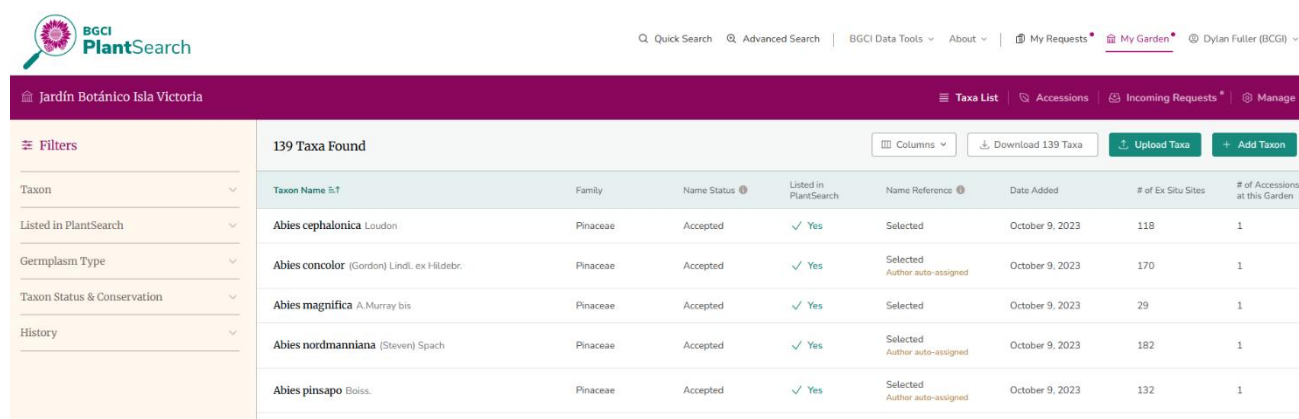
What's New in BGCI PlantSearch: Accessions

Traditionally PlantSearch only had taxon level information. However, as gardens undertake more sophisticated conservation and research projects, there is a greater need for more accurate and detailed information on the collections held in botanic gardens. For this reason we are expanding PlantSearch to incorporate not only Taxon level information but accession level information.

For those gardens that already have Taxon level information in PlantSearch, every taxon in your collection in PlantSearch has now automatically one empty records for an accession, and each accession has one empty specimen record.

This release adds a full set of tools for managing that data — from bulk uploads and downloads to day-to-day status updates.

Please note: the Accession Module replaces what some gardens may know as Pedigree Module



Jardín Botánico Isla Victoria

Quick Search | Advanced Search | BGCI Data Tools | About | My Requests | **My Garden** | Dylan Fuller (BGCI)

Taxa List | **Accessions** | Incoming Requests | Manage

Filters: Taxon, Listed in PlantSearch, Germplasm Type, Taxon Status & Conservation, History

139 Taxa Found

Taxon Name	Family	Name Status	Listed in PlantSearch	Name Reference	Date Added	# of Ex Situ Sites	# of Accessions at this Garden
<i>Abies cephalonica</i> Loudon	Pinaceae	Accepted	✓ Yes	Selected	October 9, 2023	118	1
<i>Abies concolor</i> (Gordon) Lindl. ex Hildebr.	Pinaceae	Accepted	✓ Yes	Selected Author auto-assigned	October 9, 2023	170	1
<i>Abies magnifica</i> A.Murray bis	Pinaceae	Accepted	✓ Yes	Selected	October 9, 2023	29	1
<i>Abies nordmanniana</i> (Steven) Spach	Pinaceae	Accepted	✓ Yes	Selected Author auto-assigned	October 9, 2023	182	1
<i>Abies pinsapo</i> Boiss.	Pinaceae	Accepted	✓ Yes	Selected Author auto-assigned	October 9, 2023	132	1

Here's a summary of what's changed:

1. Every taxon now has an accession — automatically

You'll still see your familiar Taxa list, and there's now an Accessions list alongside it. These are two views of the same underlying data.

- If your garden already had accession records in PlantSearch (for example, from a prior manual upload), those are preserved as-is.
- For any taxon that doesn't already have one, PlantSearch automatically generates a basic accession and specimen for it, with a default status of "Alive" and no other details filled in.
- You can tell the two apart using the Provenance Type filter on the accessions list — auto-generated records won't have a provenance type set, since no real data has been entered for them yet. Or by simply sorting on the accession number column.

You don't need to do anything to get this — it happens automatically for both existing and new taxa.

Sample Botanic Garden

Taxa List | **Accessions** | Incoming Requests | Manage

1,682 Accessions Found

Columns | Download 1,682 Accessions | Upload Accessions | Add Accession

Taxon Name	Accession Number ±1	Provenance Type	Condition	Taxon Listed in PlantSearch	Current Germplasm Type	# of Specimens
<i>Quercus setulosa</i> Hickel & A.Camus			Alive	✓ Yes		1
<i>Quercus setulosa</i> subsp. <i>laotica</i> (A.Camus) Menitsky			Alive	✓ Yes		1
<i>Quercus setulosa</i> subsp. <i>setulosa</i>			Alive	✓ Yes		1
<i>Quercus shangxiensis</i> Z.K.Zhou			Alive	✓ Yes		1
<i>Quercus shennongjii</i> C.C.Huang & S.H.Fu			Alive	✓ Yes		1
<i>Quercus chinensis</i> V.T.Chen			Alive	✓ Yes		1

Filters

Accession

Accession Number

Provenance Type

☐ Garden (G or H)

☐ Wild (W)

☐ Wild Derived (Z)

☐ Unknown (U)

2. Upload a taxa list or an accessions list — either one fills in the other

- Upload a taxa list (just names, no accession data) and PlantSearch will automatically generate a matching 'blank' accession and specimen for each new taxon.
- Upload an accessions list instead, and if the taxa referenced don't already exist in your garden, PlantSearch will automatically create a taxon record too.

Either way, your taxa list and accessions list stay in sync — you don't have to enter the same plant twice.

3. Deleting a taxon or accession keeps everything in sync

Because taxa and accessions are now linked, deleting one affects the other — and PlantSearch handles this differently depending on whether there's real data involved:

- If an accession is still just the auto-generated placeholder (nothing entered into it yet), deleting its taxon is straightforward — the taxon and its blank accession are removed together, no extra questions asked.
- If you've entered information into an accession (manually or via upload), deleting the taxon will ask you to choose:
 - Delete all accession records and the taxon (this is the default), or
 - Keep all accession records, but hide the taxon from your taxa list. Your accession data isn't lost — it's just hidden from the public-facing taxa list. You can still find it by browsing your accessions, and the taxon's detail page will show a Visibility notice explaining it's been hidden, with an option to make it visible again at any time.
- Deleting an accession that's the *last* one linked to a taxon works similarly — you'll get a warning that removing it will also remove that taxon from your garden's list, since a taxon with zero accessions isn't shown.

4. Recording accession details

Each accession has a few sections, shown as tabs you can move between (and collapse if you want a simpler view — collapsed sections still show a quick summary):

- **Overview** — accession number, accession date, germplasm type, IPEN number

Sample Botanic Garden

TAXON: *Fraxinus nigra* Marshall > ACCESSION: 2020-08

Taxon Details | **Accessions 2**

> Overview

Origin

Wild Collection Origin

Restrictions

Specimens 3

2020-08-A

2020-08-B

2020-08-C

Overview

Accession Number * ⓘ

2020-08

Accession Date: YYYY - MM - DD

Current Germplasm Type ⓘ: Explant x v

IPEN Number ⓘ

Accession Notes

- **Origin** – provenance type. If you select Wild or Wild-derived, an extra Wild Collected Origin panel appears automatically with fields like collector, locality, and coordinates — these fields only show up when they're relevant.
 - The latitude and longitude coordinates are ALWAYS obfuscated (rounded) in downloads of accession lists from PlantSearch, regardless of the restrictions setting.

TAXON: *Fraxinus nigra* Marshall > ACCESSION: 2020-08

Taxon Details | **Accessions 2**

> Overview

Origin

Wild Collection Origin

Restrictions

Specimens 3

2020-08-A

2020-08-B

2020-08-C

Origin Wild (W) v

Provenance Type ⓘ

Wild (W) x v

External Source ⓘ

External Number ⓘ

- **Restrictions** – information-sharing options (for example, restricting how much detail is shared within the tool and if there are restrictions on the material).
 - if an accession is set to Not be shared publicly, it won't appear any searches on PlantSearch; however, it will remain as part of data request for conservation purposes done directly with BGCI.
 - The latitude and longitude coordinates are ALWAYS obfuscated (rounded) in downloads of accession lists from PlantSearch, regardless of the information sharing setting.

TAXON
Fraxinus nigra Marshall > 2020-08
ACCESSION

Taxon Details Accessions 2

> Overview

Origin

Wild Collection Origin

Restrictions

Specimens 3

2020-08-A

2020-08-B

2020-08-C

Restrictions

☐ Subject to ABS Regulations ⓘ
☐ Subject to Biosecurity Regulations ⓘ
☐ Subject to CITES Regulations ⓘ
☒ Share this accession information publicly
Note: For public data requests, latitude and longitude values are approximated, and detailed location information is omitted.

- **Specimens:** An accession can have one or more specimens, labelled with specimen numbers (also known as items or qualifiers, for instance A, B, C, D, and so on). The specimen concept is so that different horticultural treatments or environments can be recorded, so if a 3 individual plants are kept the nursery while another 2 plants of the same accession are moved to the public area, the specimen number allows the accession information to remain linked but also the different environments of the specimens recorded. Adding a new specimen automatically assigns it the next letter in sequence. Every accession must have at least one specimen, so the Delete Specimen option is only available when there's more than one.

TAXON
Fraxinus nigra Marshall > 2020-08
ACCESSION

Taxon Details Accessions 2

> Overview

Origin

Wild Collection Origin

Restrictions

Specimens 3

2020-08-A

2020-08-B

2020-08-C

Specimens 3 Specimens

2020-08-A

Alive / arb23 ^

2020-08-B

Alive / arb26 ^

2020-08-C

Alive / v-8 ^

+ Add Specimen

5. Managing specimen records

In the specimen record information such as Specimen number (or Item ID / Qualifier), number of individuals in that specimen, the Metacollection that the specimen may be tracked under, notes and information about the Current Status of the specimen is recorded

TAXON
Fraxinus nigra Marshall >
ACCESSION
2020-08

Taxon Details
Accessions 2

> Overview
Origin
Wild Collection Origin
Restrictions
Specimens 3
2020-08-A
2020-08-B
2020-08-C

Specimens 3 Specimens

2020-08-A Alive / arb23

Item ID / Qualifier

A

Number of Individuals

2

Metacollection

Specimen Notes

CURRENT STATUS | View All Status Checks 1

Last Status Check Date

YYYY - MM - DD

Current Condition

Alive

Current Garden Location

Delete Specimen

6. Tracking specimen status over time

Each specimen has a Current Status showing its last check date, condition, and (where relevant) its garden location. Whenever a plant's condition changes, add a new status check rather than overwriting the old one — PlantSearch keeps a full history you can review, and individual entries can be edited or deleted if needed.

TAXON
Fraxinus nigra Marshall >
ACCESSION
2020-08

Taxon Details
Accessions 2

> Overview
Origin
Wild Collection Origin
Restrictions
Specimens 3
2020-08-A
2020-08-B
2020-08-C

Specimens 3 Specimens

2020-08-A Dead

Item ID / Qualifier

A

Number of Individuals

2

Metacollection

Specimen Notes

ALL STATUS CHECKS | View Current Status

STATUS CHECK DATE	CONDITION	LOCATION	
2026-06	Alive	arb23	
2026-07	Dead	-	

Cause of Death: Infection

Delete Specimen + Add Status Check

The fields shown adjust to fit the condition you select:

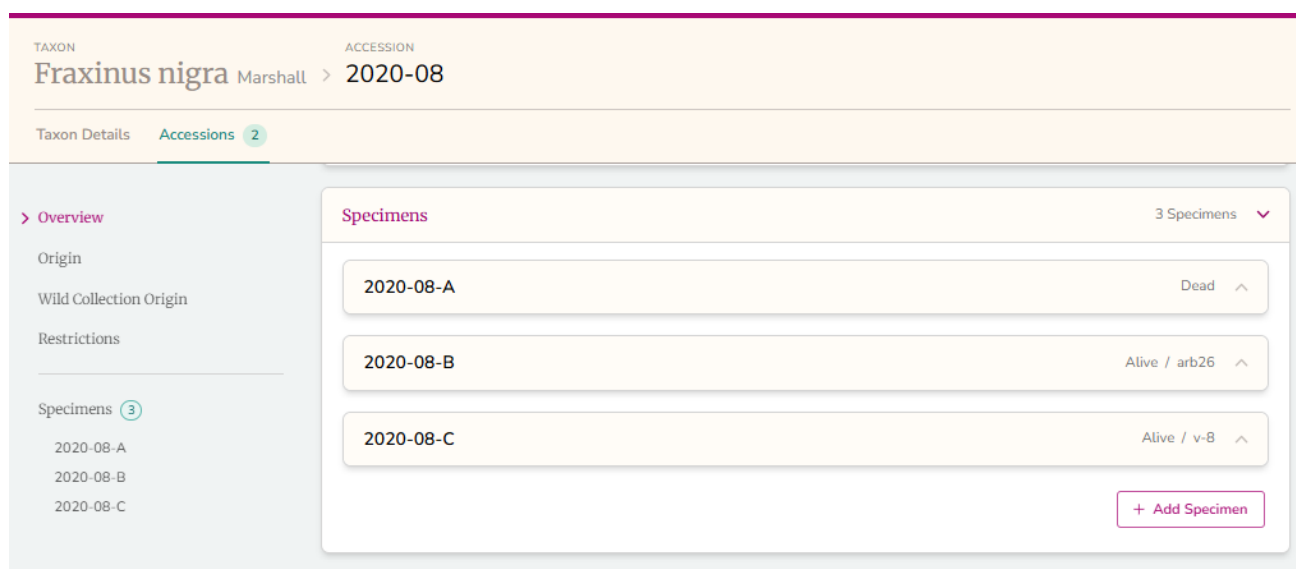
- Alive or Dormant — you'll be asked for a garden location.
- Dead — you'll be asked for a cause of death instead of a location.
- Stolen or Deaccessioned — no location field, since the plant is no longer in your collection.

7. Smarter status roll-ups for accessions and taxa

With multiple specimens per accession, PlantSearch now automatically summarises their combined status:

- If any specimen is alive, the accession shows as Alive (or Alive, Mixed if the specimens don't all share the same status).
- If none are alive but they all share the same status (for example, all stolen), the accession shows that status directly (e.g., Stolen).
- If none are alive and their statuses differ, the accession shows as Mixed.

This is mirrored in the taxon level too: if every accession for a taxon has no living specimens left (all dead, stolen, or deaccessioned), that taxon is automatically hidden from your public taxa list, with a visibility notice on its detail page explaining why. As soon as any specimen for that taxon is marked alive again, the taxon automatically reappears — no manual re-enabling needed (this is separate from the manual "hide on delete" option described in section 3).



The screenshot shows the 'Accessions' tab for the taxon *Fraxinus nigra* (Marshall) with accession number 2020-08. The 'Accessions' tab is selected, showing 2 accessions. The 'Specimens' section lists three specimens:

Specimen ID	Status
2020-08-A	Dead
2020-08-B	Alive / arb26
2020-08-C	Alive / v-B

A '+ Add Specimen' button is visible at the bottom right of the specimens list.

8. Uploads can mix taxon, accession, and specimen data in one file

When uploading a file to update existing records, you can combine taxon-level, accession-level, and specimen-level data together — PlantSearch figures out what applies where. If a row's specimen identifier matches an existing specimen, that specimen is updated; if it's a new identifier, a new specimen is created. Auto-generated placeholder specimens are automatically replaced once real data comes in for that accession.

To upload go to My Garden, then Accessions, then Upload Accessions. A downloadable Sample CSV Template is available.

On upload, you can then match the fields accordingly.

Sample Botanic Garden
Taxa List
Accessions
Incoming Requests
Manage

Upload Accessions
Select a File
Assign Fields
Process Upload
Upload Complete

 Your uploaded CSV file can include these accession- and specimen-related columns, in any order:

Column headings in your file do not need to match these; you can map your file's columns to PlantSearch fields at the next step. For specimen-level data, include one row per specimen, and include the Accession Number to link specimens to their accession.

Accession-level

OVERVIEW

Accession Number ⓘ	* Required
Taxon Name ⓘ	Needed when the accession does not already exist. Include cultivar in single quotes when relevant.
Accession Date	ACCEPTABLE FORMATS: YYYY-MM-DD, YYYY-MM, YYYY, DD-MMM-YY, ISO-8601 (time ignored)
-or- Accession Date (Year)	ACCEPTABLE FORMATS: YYYY
Accession Date (Month)	ACCEPTABLE FORMATS: MM, M
Accession Date (Day)	ACCEPTABLE FORMATS: DD, D
Current Germplasm Type ⓘ	POSSIBLE VALUES: explant, plant, pollen, seed, spore, other
IPEN Number ⓘ	
Accession Notes	

ORIGIN

 Select a CSV file to upload

or drag and drop your file here.

 Download Sample CSV Template

Future planned enhancements: easier handling of data imports

We know real-world garden data doesn't always come in the exact format PlantSearch expects (encoded status codes, non-standard date formats, combined ID fields, and so on). We're working on an "Adjust Data" step for the upload process — after you assign your spreadsheet columns to PlantSearch fields, you'll be able to transform the data to fit (for example, mapping a code like "A" to "Alive," or reformatting dates) without editing your original file. Garden-specific mapping choices will also be saved, so future uploads can reuse them automatically. This isn't available yet, but it's actively being developed.