

University of Washington Botanic Gardens Fact Sheet

The UW Botanic Gardens organization is part of the College of Forest Resources:

- UW Botanic Gardens (UWBG) comprises the Washington Park Arboretum, the Union Bay Natural Area, the Union Bay Gardens (Center for Urban Horticulture), the Elisabeth C. Miller Library and the Otis Douglas Hyde Herbarium
- UWBG Living Plant Collections contain 10,190 specimens representing 4,348 distinct taxa. Of these, 1,082 accessions (17.3%) and 1,711 (16.8%) specimens are of known wild origin
- The 230-acre Washington Park Arboretum, one of the most important tree collections in North America is jointly managed by UWBG and the City of Seattle's Department of Parks and Recreation, with support from the Arboretum Foundation - and is free to the public. It is the only State arboretum in Washington and holds more of the State's champion trees than does anywhere else
- The Washington Park Arboretum participates in an international seed exchange program and distributes documented, wild-source seed of species native to the Pacific Northwest; its seed list is distributed to 458 institutions in 59 countries
- The 16-acre Union Bay Gardens serves as the meeting place (Center for Urban Horticulture) for over 100 organizations, including 60 horticultural groups. Located throughout the Gardens are 486 herbaceous perennials and cultivars. In the container nursery undergoing plant production are 189 accessions, 76 of which are from wild-collected sources
- Merrill Hall, set in the Union Bay Gardens, is the first sustainable building to be built on the UW Seattle campus. It houses the UWBG's administrative offices and research labs, the Elisabeth C. Miller Library, and the Otis Douglas Hyde Herbarium. The Center also provides a classroom, offices, and plant clinic space to the WSU Extension Program and the Master Gardener Foundation of King County
- The 74-acre Union Bay Natural Area and 4 miles of shorelines serve as an outdoor laboratory for UW research and as a publicly accessible wildlife habitat
- The Elisabeth C. Miller Library is the most important horticultural library in the Pacific Northwest. It houses 15,000 books, 250 journal and periodical titles, 1000 nursery catalogs, and video and electronic resources. It offers a range of free services to the gardening public as well as to the academic community
- The Otis Douglas Hyde Herbarium houses 15,000 specimens and is probably the nation's largest collection of preserved cultivated plants. It serves as the official herbarium for the Washington State Noxious Weed Board and also provides free plant identification help to the public

Number of People who visit UWBG Annually (Admission is free): 320,000 (98% are from Washington State; 250,000 people visit the Arboretum; 70,000 people visit the Center)

Alliances and Partner Organizations: 96

Households receiving the quarterly UWBG Newsletter: 3700

Additional households receiving Arboretum Foundation publications: 2200

Volunteers: In 2005, 208 volunteers plus 22 volunteer groups contributed 11,529 hours.

Elisabeth C. Miller Library:

- 2005 number of Visitors: 5500
- 2005 number of books loaned: 2000
- Average number of daily visitors to web site: 1100
- 2005 number of questions to Plant Answer Line: 2958
- 2005 Library Tours: 60 tour groups, 1140 participants

UWBG Educational Programs: 11,240 people participate in UWBG education annually.

- Youth Saplings School Programs -170 programs; 5,133 participants
- Youth Explorer Pack Program - 54 pack rentals; 1,066 participants
- Youth Summer Day Camp - 4 sessions; 95 participants
- Youth Educational Outreach - 1 program (Celebrating Wildflowers), 400 participants
- Adult Public Programs - 43 programs; 985 participants
- Adult Professional Programs - 6 programs; 427 participants
- Adult Arboretum Tours - 55 tours; 1,081 participants
- Adult Center for Urban Horticulture Tours - 102 tours; 3205 participants

UWBG Research Programs

- The Rare Care program partners with 10 federal and state land holding agencies to monitor 405 rare plant populations. In 2003 the only state-of-the-art climate controlled storage and lab facility for seeds of Washington's rare plants was built at UWBG. The Miller Seed Vault currently stores seeds of 18 rare Washington species and has received 703 accessions (seed lots)
- Biology of invasive species, including assessment of invasive potential of introduced plants and impacts of current invaders
- Propagation of rare species for reintroduction into the wild
- Biology of rare plants
- Systematics of economic and other cultivated plants, especially citrus and Clerodendrum
- Restoration ecology research (collaboratively with the Restoration Ecology Network), using the Union Bay Natural Area as its outdoor laboratory

Other affiliated researchers work on:

- Human dimensions of urban forestry and urban greening
- Human response to land use change along the urban to wildland gradient, and the relationship between forest lands and the built environment
- Assessment of eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) in Westcott Bay, San Juan County due to a loss of eelgrass population from mysterious causes
- Forest soil microbiology (especially decomposition, nutrient cycling processes, and mycorrhizae) and forest pathology (especially root and canker diseases):
- Host selection behavior of bark beetles, aquatic entomology, and tropical forest insects
- Tissue to whole tree responses to environmental stresses, particularly in water and nutrient relations, carbon economy, and growth of trees from diverse ecosystems
- Plants as a medium for design and the unique spatial and temporal experiences that plants contribute to design

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