



Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

Policy: Sampling from the Living Collection

The following applies to the use of the Living Collection (all live plants) where destructive sampling is undertaken (the removal of any part of a plant for any purpose).

The Living Collection can be interrogated on Garden Explorer <https://rbge.gardenexplorer.org/default.aspx> or by staff using Iris BG.

- **Students/researchers must submit a 'Request to destructive sample the Living Collection' form** together with a completed '**Conditions of use of material derived from the RBGE Living Collection**' form. The two forms are included below.

Email both forms to pbrownless@rbge.org.uk and sbarber@rbge.org.uk

- Horticulture will determine if the material can be released for use. Reasons for refusal may include: insufficient material due to the size of the plant; CBD constraints limiting the use of the plant; the plant already being in use for another specific research purpose.
- **An accompanying voucher (herbarium specimen), not the living accession, must be cited in any published material, including theses.** It is the responsibility of the student/researcher to check the online Herbarium catalogue <https://data.rbge.org.uk/search/herbarium/> and the Herbarium for any fertile specimens which have the same accession number and qualifier as those requested. Please contact Suzanne Cubey, Natalie Zarte or Heleen Plaisier (Herbarium Office) before accessing the Herbarium, in person or by email: herbariumsampling@rbge.org.uk.
- **If there are no fertile vouchers present in the Herbarium**, the RBGE Horticulture Team will collect a voucher, but only if there is sufficient material.
- **Where samples are to be dispatched (posted/shipped)** – for example, students/researchers from out with the RBGE – the Horticultural Team will voucher the plant and the corresponding barcode and link will be communicated when available.
- **Samples dispatched (posted/shipped) out with the UK (including to Northern Ireland):** the Horticultural Team will coordinate this. For info, fresh material that is preserved in silica gel can be posted/shipped outside the UK using a CN22, while all other material requires a Phytosanitary Certificate produced by SASA (allow 4 weeks processing time). Recipients out with the UK should check and inform the Horticultural Team of any import restrictions that apply to recipients' country, with the application.

A member of the Horticulture Team must be present for any destructive sampling.

All sampling is recorded in the Horticultural database (Iris BG) for future reference.



Conditions of Use of material derived from the RBGE Living Collection

1. In response to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh supplies living plant material, preserved material, seed, DNA and pollen samples on condition that:
 - a) The material is used for the common good in areas of Research, Education, Conservation and the development of Botanic Gardens.
 - b) Access to material from RBGE's collections is for non-commercial use only. If the recipient seeks to commercialise the genetic material, its products or resources derived from it, then written permission must be sought from the RBGE. Such commercialism will be subject to the conditions of a separate agreement.
 - c) The genetic material, its products or resources deriving from it are not passed on to a third party for commercialisation or any other purpose without written permission from the country of origin and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity.
2. It is a condition of supply that any publication resulting from the use of plant material should acknowledge the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh as supplier or, under certain circumstances, be published in collaboration with staff from RBGE. A copy of any publication, report or data gained from the material **MUST** be lodged with the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.
3. A voucher specimen will be taken for material used for scientific purposes. This specimen will be kept at the RBGE and will be released on a loan basis. The cultivated collector and number must be referred to when requesting the voucher specimen and citing the material, not the accession number or the wild collector and number.
4. Nagoya Protocol Compliance: From 12th October 2014, plant material requested from RBGE may be subject to Prior Informed Consent from the country of origin. Any permissions and conditions of use will be advised before release and if there are any restrictions it will not be made available. RBGE reserves the right to refuse, without explanation if necessary, to supply genetic resources to a recipient.
5. The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh cannot guarantee the material as verified.
6. Material sent out from the living collection for identification or verification is not considered a herbarium voucher specimen and cannot be used as such. If a voucher specimen is required on a loan basis please contact the Herbarium Office: herbarium@rbge.org.uk
7. For monitoring purposes, the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh may periodically request updates on the status and health of individual shared plants.
8. The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh reserves the right to request propagation material or samples to be returned of any shared living plant.

I agree to comply with the conditions above (signed overleaf).



Name:	
Position of Representative:	
Organisation:	
Department:	
Address:	
Post/Zip code:	
Country:	
Tel. Number:	
Email:	
Signed:	
Date:	

<i>For RBGE office use only</i>	
Permit ID Number	
External Contact	
Exchange Number	
Internal Contact	

Personal data

RBGE will process your personal data for the purposes of managing the Collections.

Please return this form to:

Horticulture Dept., Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, 20A Inverleith Row, Edinburgh EH3 5LR, U.K.

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Email attachment as a Word document to: pbrownless@rbge.org.uk and sbarber@rbge.org.uk

For more information, see our **privacy notice** at www.rbge.org.uk/privacy-notice