



# LIVING COLLECTIONS STRATEGY IN BRIEF

Living  
Collections  
Strategy  
2023+



A LIVING COLLECTION IS AN ASSEMBLAGE OF PLANTS CURATED, DATA-BASED AND GROWN OR STORED FOR DEFINED PURPOSES, INCLUDING REFERENCE, RESEARCH, CONSERVATION, EDUCATION AND ORNAMENTAL DISPLAY

Botanic Gardens of Sydney's new Living Collections Strategy (the Strategy) presents a 20-year vision and roadmap for the current and future living collections held across the Australian PlantBank and Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan, Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah, Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, The Domain and the Australian Institute of Botanical Science.

The Strategy will provide strategic direction across the three Botanic Gardens and facilities, ensuring that the acquisition, curation and use of the living collections is conducted in a cohesive and coordinated manner.

This Strategy is the first step in elevating our custodianship of comprehensive, representative, resilient and expertly curated living collections. It outlines the goals and outcomes to ensure a culturally safe, sustainable approach that facilitates meaningful partnerships and strengthens our contribution to local and global plant conservation endeavours.

The Strategy will be delivered through a comprehensive Action Plan and supported by the Living Collections Policy, both to be developed in the first year of the Strategy's implementation. These actions will cut across all facets of Botanic Gardens of Sydney, ensuring that the living collections underpin the work we do for conservation, research, education and the enjoyment of these important public spaces.

Botanic Gardens of Sydney's living collections are the foundational element of our organisation, enabling us to offer exceptional visitor experiences, and the critical science and conservation horticulture we need to safeguard plants for future generations.



**BOTANIC  
GARDENS  
OF SYDNEY**

WE INVITE YOU TO READ THE FULL LIVING COLLECTIONS STRATEGY ON BOTANIC GARDENS OF SYDNEY'S WEBSITE



# LIVING COLLECTIONS

## Outcome Statement

Deliver living collections that are comprehensive, representative, resilient and expertly curated across Botanic Gardens of Sydney, and available to support conservation, research, education and cultural connections at a local, national and global level

### Outcomes

Strong foundation for long term change

Driving generational change

Global recognition through impact, leadership and world class operations

Reconciliation

### Strategic Goals

Empower staff to deliver exemplary custodianship, curation and display of comprehensive and diverse living collections that are held in trust for future generations

Champion the significant horticultural, scientific and cultural values of the living collections by facilitating appropriate use by a diversity of stakeholders

Provide sustainable solutions for managing living collections in the face of climate change and other environmental threats through conservation horticulture, and using our information, expertise and technology

Implement a robust Living Collections Policy and associated methodologies and procedures that underpin operations, to facilitate appropriate and beneficial acquisition and future use of living collections

Deliver world-class and widely-sought specialist horticultural, botanical and scientific services and expert advice, facilitating conservation of local and global species, including metacollection development

Create globally recognised and inspirational botanic gardens, facilities and public spaces, that support community health and well-being, and inform and motivate people to support the conservation and sustainable use of plants

Celebrate and embed First Nations cultural protocols, knowledge and perspectives in all aspects of the organisation's living collections activities

Lead through the delivery of best-practice data curation, labelling and interpretation and support multi-naming capabilities for culturally significant species in the living collections, enabling greater cultural connections at a local, national and global level

## Priority Actions

To be developed as part of the Action Plan during year one of the Living Collections Strategy





The strategic framework that will underpin the acquisition, curation and use of Botanic Gardens of Sydney living collections.

### Collections Resilience

Safeguard the long-term resilience of living collections to ensure they thrive under future environmental changes, embedding resilience as a key consideration across all aspects of the organisation including resourcing, asset design and management, succession planning, integrated irrigation and water management, education and engagement, and staff development

Secure major digital advances and requisite technology to support innovation in living collections management, and maintain long-term systems resilience to support diverse, comprehensive and representative living collections

### Connections and influence in biodiversity conservation

Curate a representative collection of all New South Wales native plant species, optimising genetic diversity to support their future conservation and restoration in the wild

Use the living collections to support the management of natural areas for regional biodiversity conservation, and as a resource to facilitate ecological restoration

### Global legacy from community, science and conservation impact

Build and maintain accessible collections that support the functions of Botanic Gardens of Sydney, including contemporary and future science and horticulture requirements, and the conservation of local and global species

#### Horticulture

Agents of change: Elevating the influence of local, national and global botanic gardens by exemplifying best practice nursery operations; living collections curation, display, exhibition and interpretation; records management; and material and knowledge exchange

#### Reconciliation and lifelong learning

Inspiring visitors and stakeholders by embedding traditional knowledge that makes connections to Country through interpretation, education and engagement

#### Science

Major contributions to knowledge, understanding and documenting of plants through the Australian Institute of Botanical Science

#### Conservation

Proactive and responsive to species at threat: helping mitigate risks of extinction with long term species conservation plans and strengthening of healthy and resilient populations and ecosystems, through conservation horticulture, provision of plants and/or associated knowledge, and detecting new incursions of invasive species and pathogens



# LIVING COLLECTIONS

Botanic Gardens of Sydney is Australia's oldest scientific and horticultural organisation — collecting and curating, conserving and celebrating plants since 1816. More relevant today than ever, our living collections are experienced by over 10 million visitors each year.



The living collections curated by the Botanic Gardens of Sydney currently include:

65%	796	22.5%	63.8%	69%	11,800	12,573	5,000	200m+
of global plant families represented	species from the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Plant Species	of nationally listed plant species under the Commonwealth's <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999</i>	of plant species listed in the NSW <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>	of accessions are of wild origin	species from 2,629 genera within 300 plant families	unique subgeneric taxa	living taxa held within Australian PlantBank	living specimens held within Australian PlantBank

Botanic Gardens of Sydney's key collections are those collections of local, national and international significance.

Site	Key Collection	Number of genera	Number of species
Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan	Asteraceae	25	151
	Fabaceae	43	267
	Ficus	1	12
	Lamiaceae	15	61
	Malvaceae	16	48
	Myrtaceae	49	670
	Poales	37	51
	Proteaceae	22	460
	Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah	Acer	1
Heath & Heather		31	69
Narcissus		1	21
Puya		1	15
Rhododendron		1	132
Wollemi Pine		1	1
Royal Botanic Garden Sydney	Begonia	1	57
	Ferns	64	176
	Orchids	119	520
	Palms	75	390
	Zingiberales	29	130
The Domain	Significant & heritage arboretums	80	159
Across Botanic Gardens of Sydney estates	Camellias	1	53
	Conifers	59	230
	Cycads	10	152