

Voluntary Codes of Conduct For Botanical Gardens and Arboreta

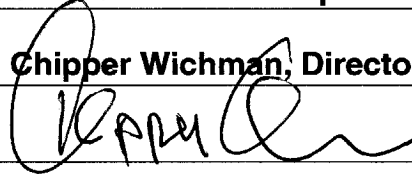
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Participating Business: National Tropical Botanical Garden

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1. Conduct an institution-wide review examining all departments and activities that provide opportunities to stem the proliferation of invasive species and inform visitors.

We acknowledge the role that botanical gardens and arboreta play in the introduction and spread of invasive plants. We will examine our vision, mission, policies and practices to ensure that they provide clear guidance for the institution, staff and volunteers in stemming the spread of invasive plant species.

2. Avoid introducing invasive plants by establishing an invasive plant assessment procedure.

a. We will use the Hawaii-Pacific Weed Risk Assessment (HWRA) to screen new plant imports.

b. When a clear assessment of risk is not reachable, we will err on the side of caution and will use appropriate quarantine measures when propagating.

3. Consider removing invasive species from plant collections. If a decision is made to retain an invasive plant, ensure its control and provide strong interpretation to the public explaining the risk and its function in the garden.

a. We will review our collection using the HWRA and other appropriate sources to determine which species are considered a risk for becoming invasive, or that are already invading Hawaii or similar Pacific Islands.

b. When plants in our collection have not been screened by a Weed Risk Assessment, we will submit the names of these plants to be screened by the HWRA.

c. We will use this information and work with local natural resource managers to identify the plants of greatest concern and discuss ways to mitigate the risk.

4. Seek to control harmful invasive species in natural areas managed by the garden and assist others in controlling them on their property, when possible.

We will work with local natural resource managers to control harmful invasive species in natural areas managed by this institution when possible.

5. Promote non-invasive alternative plants or, when possible, help develop non-invasive alternatives through plant selection or breeding.

We will work to identify and promote non-invasive plants, and where possible, we will assist in developing non-invasive plants through breeding or selection.

6. If your institution participates in seed or plant distribution, including through Index Seminum, do not distribute known invasive plants except for bona-fide research purposes, and consider the consequences of distribution outside your biogeographic region. Consider a statement of caution attached to species that appear to be potentially invasive but have not been fully evaluated.

7. Increase public awareness about invasive plants. Inform why they are a problem, including the origin, mechanisms of harm, and need for prevention and control.

a. We will work to educate participants of institution-related plant sales about invasive plants and their effects and non-invasive alternatives.

b. We will strive to provide horticulture education programs that include the invasive species information.

c. We will encourage the public to evaluate what they do in their own practices and gardens.

8. Participate in developing, implementing, or supporting national, regional, or local early warning systems for immediate reporting and control. Participate also in the creation of regional lists of concern.

9. Botanical gardens should try to become informed about invasiveness of their species in other biogeographic regions, and this information should be compiled and shared in a manner accessible to all.

10. Become partners with other organizations in the management of harmful invasive species.

11. Follow all laws on importation, exportation, quarantine, and distribution of plant materials across political boundaries, including foreign countries. Be sensitive to conventions and treaties that deal with this issue, and encourage affiliated organizations (plant societies, garden clubs, etc.) to do the same.