

Plant collections of the University of Warsaw Botanic Garden

The University of Warsaw Botanic Garden occupies an area of 5.16 ha. It includes open-air collections of native plants, as well as greenhouse expositions with tropical, subtropical and succulent plants. Live collections contain ca 5,500 taxons. They include endangered and protected species (not only of the native flora), and rare, old cultivars of ornamental woody plants and perennials.

Live collections of UWBG include the following sections: Arboretum & Climbers, Plant Systematics, Plants of Different Habitats, Plants of Polish Lowland Flora, Useful and Medicinal Plants, Ornamental Plants, Rose Garden, Plant Biology, Greenhouse Collections.

The main function of the Garden is protection of biological diversity *ex situ*, education and popularising the knowledge of endangered and protected Polish wild species. The Garden plays also an important role in the protection of endangered plant species included in the CITES list. The most important tasks of the Garden in that respect are: education and popularising the knowledge of CITES, trainings for police and customs officers, maintenance and updating collections of plants included in the convention.



Collection of species included in the CITES list

It is one of our most valuable collections and includes 658 species from 22 botanic families. Over 280 species belongs to *Orchidaceae* family and 228 – to *Cactaceae*. Most of them - 650 species are grown in the greenhouses; 8 species, belonging to the Polish flora, are cultivated outdoors. Plants for the CITES collection are obtained mainly from other botanic gardens. Thanks to our 25-year collaboration with the custom office this collection is supplemented with the plants equisitioned from smuggling. In 2005 we got 1500 specimens of cacti smuggled from Argentina to Czech Republic, and in 2012 – several dozen of cacti from the postal consigments from Bolivia. Our curators trained a few hundred of custom officers on issues regarding the smuggling of the plants subjected to the CITES convention.



Collection of Polish endangered and protected species

Protected and endangered species from the Polish Plant Red Book are presented in various garden sections: Ecological Groups, Flora of Polish Lowland, and others. Their collection consists of 70 species. These plants are collected from the natural sites during the field trips of the garden curators, and are obtained within exchange with other botanic gardens in Poland. They include water and bog plants, mountain plants, as well as species from salt pans, dunes and steppe. All plants are provided with the conditions resembling their natural habitats (water tanks, alpinarium, artificial dunes and salt pans etc.).



Collections of old cultivars of trees, shrubs and ornamental plants

The aim of the creation of these collections was to preserve and promote old Polish varieties of ornamental plants which are well adapted to the local climatic conditions, and more resistant to pests and diseases than modern ones. During several dozen of dendrological expeditions to the old parks of former manor houses, old, forgotten varieties of ornamental trees and shrubs were collected.

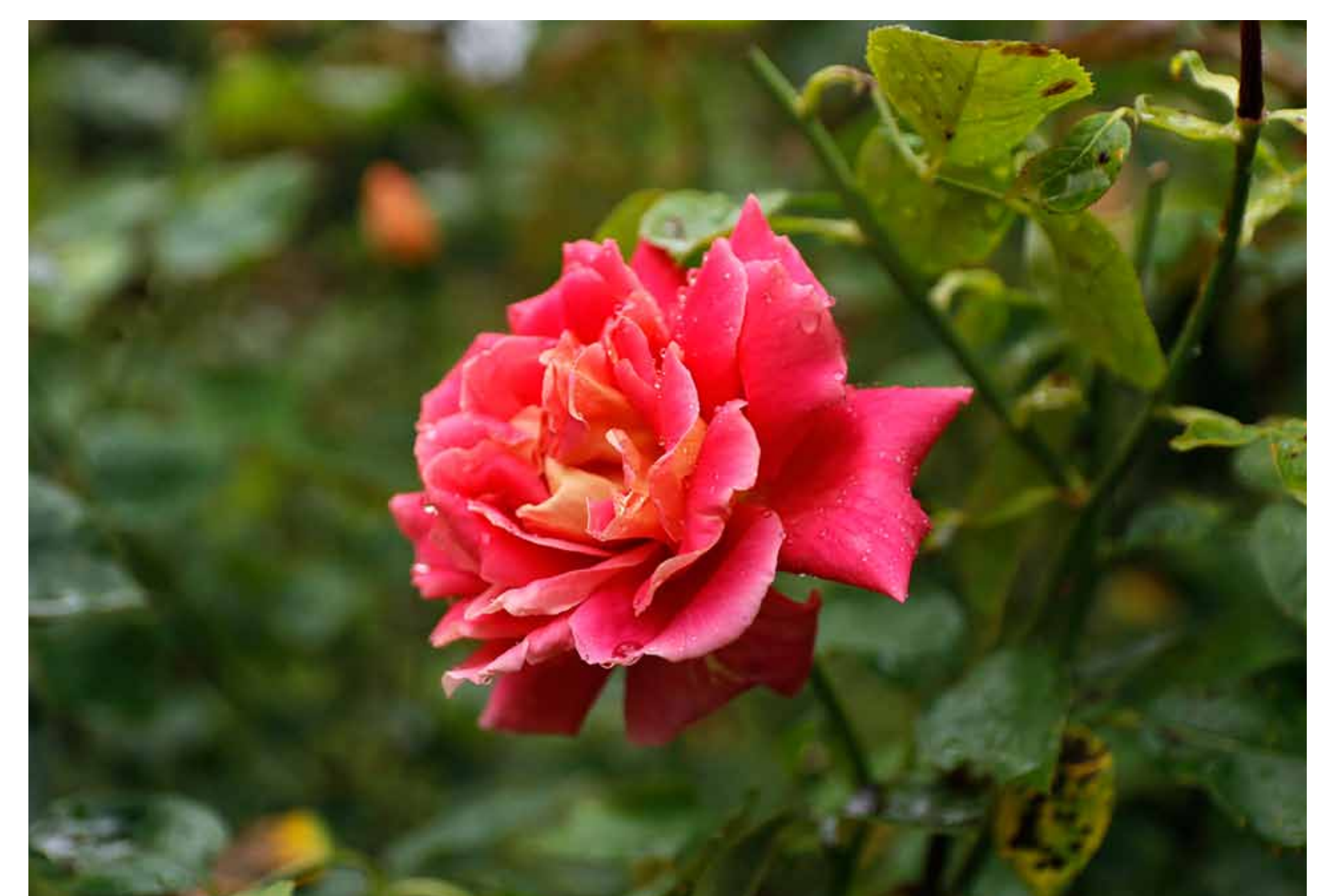
The 6-year project enabled us to create the preservative collection of several old varieties of ornamental perennials grown in traditional country gardens in Kurpie and Podlasie regions. We have also valuable collection of 18 cultivars of rose bred in Poland at the beginning of the 20th century.



Cypripedium calceolus L., photo: A. Krzyk



Fritillaria meleagris L., photo: A. Krzyk



Rosa L. 'Warszawa' Grąbczewski, photo: I. Kuzyszyn