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- ✓ 100,000 plants are at risk of extinction.
- ✓ There isn't much we can do in our daily lives to save pandas and other large mammals, but gardeners can play a personal and important role in helping to save plants
- ✓ Gardeners have long played an important role in the preservation of some plants. In fact, gardens are the last refuge for a few dozen plants that are now extinct in their natural habitats, such as the Franklin tree, Sprenger's tulip, and chocolate-scented cosmos.

The plants most threatened by collection from the wild for sale in the nursery trade include:

Orchids
.....
Cacti and succulents
.....

Bulbs
.....
Carnivorous plants
.....

Native wildflowers
.....
Cycads
.....

Photos: Jim Popenoe, BBG, Dan Shepherd, Kevin Adams (kadamsphoto.com)

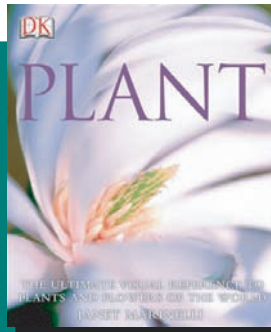
✂ Clip this card and keep it with you.

Plant for the Planet!

Carry this card with you when you purchase plants or travel. Be especially cautious when buying the following, purchasing only nursery-propagated plants:

- ✓ Orchids
- ✓ Cacti and succulents
- ✓ Bulbs
- ✓ Cycads
- ✓ Native wildflowers
- ✓ Carnivorous plants

www.plantfortheplanet.org



A celebration of the world's flora, from the everyday daffodil to the rarest orchid, Plant features an extensive encyclopedia of 2,000 of the most spectacular and imperilled plants on the planet, and shows gardeners how they can plan a personal and important role in helping to save them. Plant is available at bookstores, botanic gardens and on-line at www.bbg.org.

- Published in association with BGCI and endorsed by leading botanical gardens around the globe.
- Royalties from the sale of the book will help to fund urgent plant conservation work.

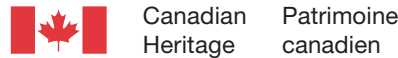
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A Partnership for Plants in Canada
Un partenariat canadien pour les plantes



Canadian Botanical Conservation Network
le réseau canadien pour la conservation de la flore



Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) brings together the world's botanic gardens to work in partnership to achieve plant conservation and education goals. Established in 1987, we link more than 800 botanic gardens in 115 countries.



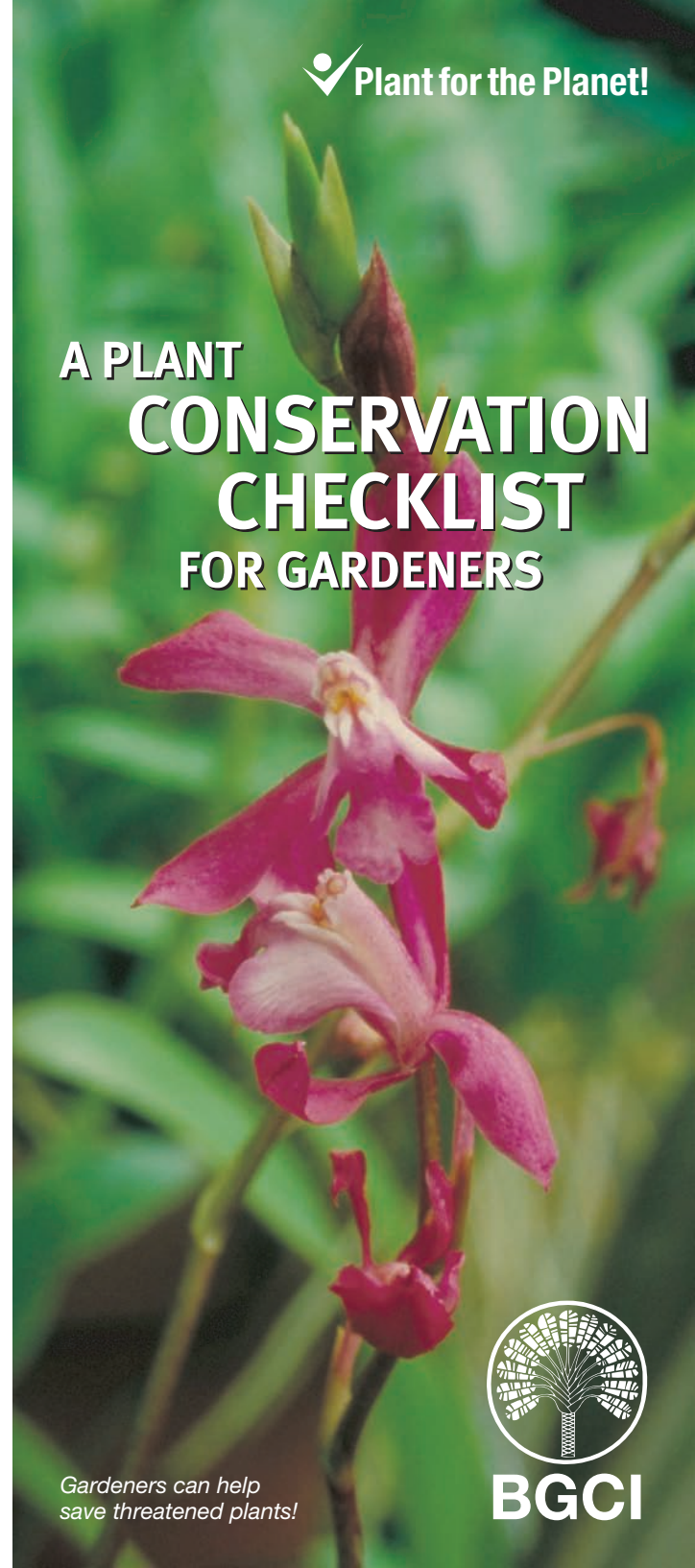
You can support out efforts by becoming a Friend of BGCI. Join today: www.bgci.org



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✓ **Plant for the Planet!**

A PLANT CONSERVATION CHECKLIST FOR GARDENERS



BGCI

Gardeners can help save threatened plants!

Plant for the Planet!

A checklist

For detailed information, including conservation and growing information on 2,000 threatened plants, consult Plant (see back panel for more information) and go to www.plantfortheplanet.org.

- Know the conservation status of the plant species you choose to grow.
A large number of plants that are threatened in the wild are sold in the nursery trade. By knowing which they are, you can act to preserve them by being a careful consumer, instead of unwittingly contributing to their demise.
- Know the laws that protect wild plants and how they affect you.
A permit is required to bring home from abroad or obtain from overseas suppliers any plant protected under CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species). Local and national laws including the Canadian Species at Risk Act also regulate the sale of threatened plants.
- To help protect wild plant populations, think conservation when buying plants, bulbs, and other plant materials.
Never buy a plant that has been illegally dug up from the wild. Plants most likely to be wild collected are orchids, cacti and succulents, bulbs, carnivorous plants, cycads, and native wildflowers. Look for plant labels that say

"nursery propagated" or "from cultivated stock." (Beware ambiguous wording such as "nursery grown," which may mean that a plant has been stolen from the wild, then grown on in a nursery.) If a plant's origin is unclear, question the vendor; when in doubt, do not buy. Even better, give your business to sources who actively work to conserve threatened plants.

- When possible, purchase plants that have been propagated sexually (by seed) to help maintain the genetic health of threatened plants.
Many plants in the nursery trade are clones propagated in ways that eliminate genetic variation. The survival of most threatened plants is best served when they are grown from seed. Before buying them, ask how the plants have been propagated.
- Be as diligent about documenting the origins of any threatened plants in your garden or greenhouse as you are about growing them.
Some orchids and cycads, for example, are so critically endangered that plants in private hands may be an important stockpile of germplasm for future conservation efforts. A detailed record of their provenance, or origin, increases the conservation value of the threatened plants you grow. Conservation-minded suppliers of seed or plants can provide such information.
- Make your garden a refuge for native wildflowers and wildlife.
By using native species in plantings modeled after local plant communities such as forests or prairies, you can do your part to compensate for the loss and fragmentation of habitat, and nurture birds, butterflies, and other pollinators and seed dispersers. And don't forget — to avoid threatening plants indirectly by damaging their pollinators and native habitats, don't use toxic pesticides, don't overfertilize, and choose plants to minimize water use.

- Never grow plants that are invasive or potentially invasive.
Invasive plants spread out of control in the wild, threatening native plants and animals. Many common garden plants can become invasive. Remove these plants from your garden. The best way to avoid introducing a new invasive plant is to select trees, shrubs, and wildflowers native to your area.
- Make the most of your green thumb — volunteer to assist conservation work at a botanic garden or other group.
From propagating threatened species to removing invasive plants, the amount of work required to save the estimated 100,000 imperiled plants worldwide is staggering. Botanic gardens and other groups rely on volunteers to help get the work done. Visit www.planetfortheplanet.org to find botanic gardens near you.
- Support local, national, and international plant conservation efforts.
Become a member of botanic gardens and other groups involved in plant conservation and habitat preservation. Let government officials know plant conservation is important to you.
- Be an ecotourist — support sustainable use of plants when you travel.
Ecotourism is travel that contributes to the protection of critical habitat and sustains local communities. Choices range from small-scale tours to large resorts.

Remember, when in doubt, don't buy!

Ask:

- ✓ Is this a threatened plant?
- ✓ Has it been nursery-propagated, not collected from the wild?
- ✓ Do I need any special documents or permits?
- ✓ Is this plant invasive or potentially invasive?



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