**Online research resources 2023**

compiled by the Conservation team at Plant Heritage

**General research**

Academic journal papers <https://www.jstor.org/> (contact [collections@plantheritage.org.uk](mailto:collections@plantheritage.org.uk) for a log-in)

Open access scholarly articles can also be found on google scholar <https://scholar.google.com/>

RHS libraries <https://libraries.rhs.org.uk/client/en_GB/default>

You can archive whole websites on the Wayback Machine if you don’t want them to disappear <https://archive.org/web/> and also use it to search for the billions of webpages that have been archived there.

Tips for refining a google web search**:** <https://library.csbs.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GOOGLE-CHEAT-SHEET.pdf> or <https://support.google.com/websearch/answer/2466433?hl=en>

Tips for refining a JSTOR search<https://guides.jstor.org/how-to-use-jstor/searching>

**Images**

Reverse image search on Google images by dragging and dropping into the search bar <https://www.google.com/imghp?hl=EN>

Another site that often gets different results is Tin Eye – good if you want to see where else a picture is on the internet. <https://tineye.com/>

A vast resource which can be filtered for open access images is Flickr <https://www.flickr.com/>

**Species research**

International Plant Names Index (IPNI) <https://www.ipni.org/> most up to date

Kew Plants of the World Online (POWO) <http://www.plantsoftheworldonline.org/> connects many sources, references may be listed only under synonyms

World Flora Online <http://www.worldfloraonline.org/> The successor to The Plant List (which stopped being updated in 2013.)

Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) <https://www.gbif.org/>

Botanic Garden Conservation International – Plant Search allows you to look for occurrence of species and cultivars in botanic gardens worldwide, with IUCN threat statuses, and send enquiry emails (although you don’t know where they’re going) <https://tools.bgci.org/plant_search.php> If you needed to restrict search to e.g. UK contact their office directly to ask if possible

Floras of various regions or countries <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_electronic_Floras>

Botanic Society of Britain & Ireland (BSBI) <https://bsbi.org/>

IUCN red list online for details of conservation status and threat assessments <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

**Seed research** – Kew collaborates on a database of seed traits, germination requirements, storage info <https://ser-sid.org/>

<https://tomclothier.hort.net/> includes a comprehensive seed germination database

**Herbaria online**

Global herbaria records <https://plants.jstor.org/>

<https://www.kew.org/science/collections-and-resources/collections/herbarium>

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/conserving-garden-plants/rhs-herbarium/specimen-database> no longer live, as it is hosted on their previous collections database: types and standards only are on Jstor Plants

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/our-science/collections/botany-collections.html>

<https://www.rbge.org.uk/science-and-conservation/herbarium/> search at <https://data.rbge.org.uk/search/herbarium/> (41% of their herbarium collections are databased) or by links from searching living collections

RHS Image supply service <https://www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/libraries-at-rhs/library-services/researching>

**Cultivar research**

International Cultivar Registration Authorities (ICRAs) <https://www.ishs.org/sci/taxlist/taxlist.htm>

RHS Find a Plant search 345,000 names <https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/search-form> can do partial word searches, to be quicker and find despite spelling variations e.g. plen finds Pleno, Plena, Plenus if rest of name has changed. Current known issue with not being able to find correct name for a synonym – click list of suppliers if present to see correct name at top of page.

CPVO to find plants that have, or had Plant Breeder’s Rights (free to create an account) <https://online.plantvarieties.eu/#/login>

Patented plants (US) https://ppubs.uspto.gov/pubwebapp/static/pages/landing.html

Commercial seed <https://www.hemzaden.nl/en/homepage> or <http://www.econseeds.nl/products/>

Dendroflora <https://dendroflora.nl/> ‘50 years of articles archive’

RHS Trials database is no longer online but may return <http://apps.rhs.org.uk/planttrials/index.asp> not consistently indexed so key word may not find, suggest browse in likely years

**Digitised nursery & seed catalogues**

Oregon State Uni 1885-1969 2200 flower and seed catalogues from US, GB, Europe and Asia

<http://scarc.library.oregonstate.edu/findingaids/index.php?p=collections/findingaid&id=2552>

#### German Horticultural Library

#### <http://www.historischegaerten.de/Gartenbaubuecherei/digicatalogue.html#uk>

American Daffodil Society Library - Collection of historic catalogues, not just daffodils e.g. includes listings for Nerine. <https://dafflibrary.org/>

Nursery catalogs from Europe, 1800 – 1990s <https://archive.org/details/europeannurserycatalogues>

Nursery catalogs from the USA, 1771 to the 2000s: <https://archive.org/details/usda-nurseryandseedcatalog>

RHS have started their project to digitise 50,000 nursery catalogues held

**Finding cultivars – Threatened Plants Programme (TPP)**

contact [TPP@plantheritage.org.uk](mailto:TPP@plantheritage.org.uk)

Online: many botanic gardens, arboreta and parks have plant lists and resources for their living collections – this TPP blog post links to public lists for the UK and Ireland (species too). RBGE particularly has lots of photos <https://collectionholdernews.wordpress.com/2018/07/10/have-you-found-all-of-these-yet/>

Plant Guardian plants’ web pages coming soon will have conservation status

TPP assesses named cultivars only (not species, crosses, grex, Groups, wild collections, mixes, Series, possible future names, sales names without a cultivar epithet)

Inputs: data from Plant Finder 1987-2022 and additional nurseries, Collections past, present and proposed, ICRAs and other online resources, confidential plant lists from >2,000 locations including National Trust and other heritage, botanic, historic, council and private gardens

TPP report outputs: conservation status (threatened in cultivation), synonyms from RHS and others, Plant Finder dates from-to, Plant Finder how many suppliers in recent years, UK/Ireland grown dates from-to, locations at which alive (80,000 including 19,000 in National Collections), Plant Heritage conservation schemes (Plant Exchanges, Plant Guardians, Threatened Plant of the Year, Group propagation projects, referee assessments), plus much more!

**Historical research**

Google books <https://www.google.co.uk/books>

Biodiversity Heritage Library <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/>

Hunt Institute – plant science periodicals <https://www.huntbotanical.org/databases/show.php?1>

Hathi Trust Digital Library – books and periodicals <https://www.hathitrust.org/> Periodicals & Books

The National Archives include some records from historic estates and plant nurseries <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

**Plant groups**

Alpine Garden Society Journal Index archive (AGS) <http://archive.alpinegardensociety.net/publications/Alpine-Gardener/cumulative-index/>

Trees and Shrubs online (Bean) – International Dendrology Society <http://dendrology.org/trees-and-shrubs-online/>

Help Me Find - Roses, Clematis and Peonies <https://www.helpmefind.com/rose/plants.php>

International Crassulaceae Network <https://www.crassulaceae.ch/de/home>

Bulbs - KAVB (ICRA for many) <https://www.kavb.nl/siergewassen>

Many botanic gardens, arboreta and parks have online plant lists and resources for their living collections – this TPP blog post links to public lists for the UK and Ireland <https://collectionholdernews.wordpress.com/2018/07/10/have-you-found-all-of-these-yet/>

<https://irises.org> membership $15 a year

<https://hostalibrary.org> names with photos

<https://myhostas.be> parentage, registrant, date

List of names of woody plants and perennials, with search <http://www.internationalplantnames.com/HTML/English/index_eng.htm>

Dave’s Garden list of 160,000 plants <https://davesgarden.com/>

National Gardening Association (USA) <https://garden.org/>

Cultivar.org Laurence Hatch woody plants, hardy perennials, interior plants, especially cultivar lists for those without ICRAs, all was free now some still is

other ideas on <https://www.wirefence.co.uk/the-best-gardening-databases/>

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