

National Collection Holder Bursary – 2026

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

Please read these guidance notes before completing the 2026 Bursary application form.

Bursary objective: The Collection Holder Bursary provides funds (£100 - £500) to help to promote, support and improve the National Plant Collections®

Applications will be considered if:

- You are the accredited holder of a Plant Heritage National Plant Collection.
- You are directly involved with the management of, or working with a National Plant Collection (we will just need confirmation from the Collection holder/owner)

Bursaries may be given for the following types of projects:

- Assistance with research to improve the collection, for example:
 - to further your knowledge of the genus or scope of the collection
 - travel to visit other collections or gardens associated with your collection
- Horticultural training relevant to improving and developing the collection e.g.
 - Travel to attend specific conferences or workshops or course costs (not your normal place of work or study)
 - equipment or books appropriate to your collection for study and research
 - starting an herbarium
- To improve interpretation, for example:
 - sign and labelling for visitors
 - photography, interpretation boards
 - to educate others about the collection and genus
- Support will also be considered for modest capital projects to directly support or protect plants in a National Collection

This is not an exhaustive list, and if you would like to consider something that you believe meets the bursary objectives but isn't shown above (and is not on the list of things we can't fund below), please get in touch.

We recognise that climate change is making the work of Collection Holders harder (e.g. through more extreme weather patterns, new pests and diseases). We encourage Collection Holders to adopt sustainable practices and are ready to consider bursary applications that can support this.

We are **not** able to give bursaries for:

- travel costs between home and normal place of work or study
- to materially improve a location not directly connected to the Collection
- general running and maintenance costs
- purchasing plants to add to the Collection
- IT equipment not relating to the criteria above

Please ask the Plant Heritage conservation team for information if what you are hoping to do will not be covered, or covered in full, by the Collection Holder Bursary. You may be eligible to apply for grants or funding from other organisations to support your work.

We ask for a report on completion of your project, which enables Plant Heritage to inform others about our support for plant conservation. Some reports could be published on our website, in our Directory or may be included in the Plant Heritage Journal.

Important notes on the application process and funding provided:

1. The closing date for receipt of application is 28th February 2026.
2. Please complete all parts of the application form. Incomplete or unclear applications are unlikely to be successful. Costings must be clear and accurate. All information contained in an application will only be used for the purposes of processing that application.
3. Completed forms and any queries relating to completing the form should be directed to the conservation team: collections@plantheritage.org.uk.
4. Applications will be considered by an independent Bursary Judging Panel and their decision is final. Grants will be announced on our website or in the Journal or Directory.
5. Applicants are encouraged to read and consider Plant Heritage's sustainability commitments: <https://www.plantheritage.org.uk/conservation/sustainability/>
6. Grants cannot be awarded retrospectively for work or projects already completed at the time of application. Grant monies will normally be paid on completion of the project. If you need to apply for funding in advance, please get in touch to discuss this.
7. Grants will **not** be considered if your membership subscription with Plant Heritage has not been paid, or if an Annual Collection report on your National Collection has not been received by the Plant Heritage conservation team within the last 12 months.
8. A three-year gap is the usual period between successful bursary applications. If you last had a successful application in 2024, you may reapply this year.
9. Plant Heritage reserves the right to request repayment of a grant should the bursary recipient's National Collection be withdrawn within the year of the bursary (2026).
10. A condition of a successful bursary application is for a written report plus images to be provided on completion of the project or within three months of receiving funds. This should be submitted to collections@plantheritage.org.uk
11. If a project that has been awarded a bursary unexpectedly becomes delayed, please contact the conservation team (collections@plantheritage.org.uk)
12. Plant Heritage reserves the right to withhold a grant or require repayment if it is found that false information was supplied, or if the project intended for the monies awarded had been completed prior to application.

November 2025