

Guidelines for selecting a rare and/or endangered species
2020 Plants Illustrated Exhibition

Here are some suggestions to consider while selecting a specimen for our exhibition at the UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley:

1. IDENTIFYING RARE & ENDANGERED SPECIMENS AT UCBG: Most plants with a red dot are rare and threatened species. In some cases, you may see the same species side by side however one may not have a dot. They do fall off.
2. IF YOU'RE NOT SURE, ASK: If you see a plant you are excited about, it's always good to ask UC staff (Vanessa and Holly) if it is considered rare or endangered (or threatened). The rarity status is updated periodically and it is hard for garden staff to keep up with these updates, so some plants might need to be added to the list that aren't yet marked with a red dot.
3. READING THE ID TAGS: On the identification tags you'll see an "accession number" in the upper right corner which refers to what year the specimen was planted and in what order it was received. For example, 80.0233 means that it was acquired in 1980 and is the 233rd accession added to the garden that year. In addition, you'll see the plant family name in the upper left, in the center the scientific name and sometimes the common name. Finally, at the bottom, its country of origin.
4. COLLECTING A SPECIMEN: Once you have decided on a few options, contact Vanessa Handley or Holly Forbes with the Bed #, Accession #, Genus and species. They will be able to corroborate if the plant meets the required status of rare or endangered. It may not always be possible to get a cutting. It depends on how productive a plant is and whether there are enough plants in the garden. For greenhouse specimens, if there are multiples pots, you may be able to arrange to sit in the Julia Morgan building to work on drawings at the garden. In some cases, nurseries may have specimens available to purchase. That is acceptable if you are sure it is correctly labeled by the nursery. Note, all plants in the garden have been collected from the wild, while those in nurseries have been cultivated. If you are not able to get a cutting or purchase a specimen, you will need to work in the field and from photographs.
5. Although it is preferred, you do not have to select a plant from UCBG or one that grows there. There are many resources to locate the names of rare and/or endangered plants. These include:
 - a. Calflora – www.calflora.org
 - b. California Native Plant Society (CNPS) – www.cnps.org
 - c. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red lists – www.iucnredlist.org
 - d. UCBG Collection Database – www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu/collections
 - e. individual country lists