



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

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BBG: Elizabeth Reina-Longoria, communications@bbg.org | 718-623-7241

NYBG: Stevenson Swanson, sswanson@nybg.org | 718-817-8512

Brooklyn Botanic Garden Announces Temporary Loan of Herbarium to The New York Botanical Garden

*BBG's significant and historically important collection of
330,000 specimens to remain accessible to
researchers during loan period*

Brooklyn, NY—Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG) and The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) today announced a temporary loan of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden Herbarium, a large and historic preserved plant collection of international significance, to The New York Botanical Garden. The loan will ensure the protection of the valuable herbarium, a collection of 330,000 dried plant specimens, which are being moved from BBG due to a foundation problem at the Garden's former off-site facility. During the loan period, BBG will develop plans for housing the collection in a suitable facility within the Garden in the future.

"We are very grateful to The New York Botanical Garden for assisting us with storing and protecting our herbarium and for allowing it to remain accessible to qualified researchers," said Scot Medbury, president of Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

"The New York Botanical Garden is happy to provide a temporary home for the Brooklyn Botanic Garden Herbarium specimens at our William and Lynda Steere Herbarium," said Gregory Long, chief executive officer and the William C. Steere Sr. president of The New York Botanical Garden. "This arrangement not only ensures that an important collection will remain available for researchers but also that it will be preserved in state-of-the-art conditions until it returns to Brooklyn."

The BBG Herbarium comprises 330,000 pressed, dried plant specimens, including 1,674 type specimens. Its taxonomic scope includes algae, lichens, bryophytes, and vascular plants from around the world, with an emphasis on plants native to North American and the northeastern United States in particular.

The BBG Herbarium incorporates a number of historically important collections, including the personal herbarium of A.A. Heller, rich in type specimens from the western United States; the personal herbarium of Camillo Schneider, which formed the basis for his monograph on woody cultivated plants, *Handbuch der Laubholzkunde*; a rare bound set of Australian algae; and sets collected by BBG researchers on the Whitney South Seas expedition and the

Mulford expedition to Bolivia. The herbarium also includes BBG's New York Metropolitan Flora Collection from the past 25 years, which remains represented in the New York City region through duplicate specimens at The New York Botanical Garden. Further information on the BBG Herbarium can be found at bbg.org/research/herbarium.

With 7.4 million specimens, the William and Lynda Steere Herbarium at The New York Botanical Garden is the largest in the Western Hemisphere and second largest in the world. A National Systematics Research Resource Center, the Steere Herbarium holds significant collections of all groups of plants and fungi from around the world and is a key resource for the international research community. Its geographical emphasis is on the plants and fungi of the New World. An estimated 3.1 million specimens are from North America; 3.1 million are from tropical America; and the remaining 1.1 million are from Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Pacific region.

As a leader in the digitization of American scientific collections, NYBG's C.V. Starr Virtual Herbarium provides instant internet access to information on more than 2.35 million specimens in the Steere Herbarium. Approximately 300,000 specimens are digitized annually in its Digital Imaging Center.

Further information about the Steere Herbarium and the Starr Virtual Herbarium can be found at nybg.org/science.

About The New York Botanical Garden

The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants, an educational institution, and a scientific research organization. Founded in 1891, NYBG is one of the world's preeminent centers for studying plants at all levels, from the whole organism down to its DNA. A National Historic Landmark, the Garden's 250-acre site is distinguished by the beauty of its diverse landscape and extensive collections and gardens. Learn more at nybg.org.

About Brooklyn Botanic Garden

Founded in 1910, Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG) is an urban botanic garden that connects people to the world of plants, fostering delight and curiosity while inspiring an appreciation and sense of stewardship of the environment. Situated on 52 acres in the heart of Brooklyn, the Garden is home to over 14,000 kinds of plants and hosts more than 800,000 visitors annually. For more information, please visit bbg.org.

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