

Press releases from Plant Heritage

RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival 2024

PLANT HERITAGE PRESS CALL: Monday 1st July 11.20am at stand PH117 – at end of floral marquee – followed by refreshments

[1] – Brickell Award 2024 winner announced and Plant Heritage’s wider show plans (NB the Brickell Award information is embargoed until 11:30 Monday 1st July)

Advolly Richmond will present this year’s Brickell Award winners – distinguished orchid conservationists at The Mathers Foundation – with Plant Heritage’s prestigious annual award. The presentation begins at 11:30 at Plant Heritage’s stand PH117a in the floral marquee. All media are welcome to join!

Also, a brand-new and award-winning fragrant persica rose hybrid – ‘SEE YOU in rosé’ – will be launched by National Plant Collection Holder Daniel Myhill, and Plant Heritage will showcase this year’s ‘Missing Collections’ (was the ‘Missing Genera’) at stand PH117a too.

[2] – Missing Collections 2024 campaign launch

Plant Heritage will highlight 15 environmentally friendly plant groups that aren’t currently part of a National Plant Collection at the show, which make up this year’s ‘Missing Collections’ list.

Without someone to care for them, these plant groups are at risk of being lost if they fall out of fashion or are no longer available from nurseries. To ensure this doesn’t happen, Plant Heritage is calling for passionate gardeners to consider starting a National Plant Collection to protect one of the plant groups on the list, and to join their community in growing, sharing and saving plants.

Please see the below PRs for more information about both stories. To set up interviews or to receive high-res images, please contact Adela Cragg:

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[1] Press release

Under embargo until 11:30 Monday 1st July 2024 [RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival press day]

The Mathers Foundation wins prestigious Brickell Award 2024 at RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival for outstanding orchid conservation

Plant Heritage is delighted to present its prestigious Brickell Award 2024 to distinguished orchid conservationists at The Mathers Foundation at RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival on Monday 1st July.

The annual award – named after Plant Heritage’s founding member and Vice President Chris Brickell – celebrates excellence in cultivated plant conservation and has been awarded to Gill Mathers, David Mathers and Jim Durrant in recognition of their outstanding orchid conservation work.



Jim Durrant, Gill Mathers and David Mathers (L) and *Pleione formosana* 'Snow White' ®. Credit The Mathers Foundation.
[High-res images, and others, are available]

The Mathers Foundation in West Sussex is home to three National Plant Collections of orchids (*Oncidium*; *Pleione*; *Stanhopea* & *Acineta* spp. & hybrids), including two that were rescued when their original Collection Holder was no longer able to maintain them. Chair Gill Mathers, Founder David Mathers, and Nursery Manager Jim Durrant (recognised as an Associate of Honour by the RHS last year) have been awarded for using sustainable growing techniques, minimal chemical use and for their active laboratory propagation programme of existing and new cultivar seedlings. The judges also commended the Foundation for using the 17,000 plants within their care to support research, including tracking, identification and photographic logging of all of their plants and studying improved methods of growing and propagation.

Since the foundation was established in 2019, Gill, David and Jim have worked tirelessly to conserve a variety of orchid species and hybrids that otherwise might be lost. Preserving unique collections of plants outside their natural habitats is becoming ever more important given the pressures on wild plant populations. They conserve three outstanding collections, with a further two planned. The Foundation has also received numerous awards from the RHS Orchid Committee in recent years and works closely with the Plant Heritage Sussex Group by hosting training courses, visits and events for members.

Gwen Hines, Chief Executive at Plant Heritage, says: “The Mathers Foundation is a fantastic example of three passionate people working to save a plant group they love. Gill, David and Jim have devoted themselves to conserving orchids, making them truly worthy recipients of our Brickell Award. Together they have taken on Ian Butterfield’s *Pleione* and Richard and Denise Hartley’s *Stanhopea* National Plant Collections in a bid to ensure that the many years of hard work by Ian, Richard and Denise were not in vain, and their precious plants saved. Succession of National Plant Collections is hugely important, as otherwise the plants and their associated knowledge could be lost. We applaud The Mathers Foundation’s ongoing work and look forward to their many more successes in the future.”

Advolly Richmond will present Gill, David and Jim with the Brickell Award 2024 at Plant Heritage’s display (PH117a) in the floral marquee at 11.30am on Monday 1st July.

Gill Mathers said: “We are delighted to receive this prestigious award. Safeguarding, cultivating and propagating endangered orchids is becoming increasingly important given the pressures on these plants in their native habitats from climate change and deforestation. The Brickell Award is a fantastic recognition of the importance of this work and a tribute to the incredible support, encouragement and ideas that have we received from so many individuals both in the UK and internationally.”

“The award is an important acknowledgement of Jim’s work. His long experience in growing orchids enables us to take on large and complex collections and ensure that they flourish in their new home. His knowledge and enthusiasm for these plants inspires innovation and encourages others to grow these plants better. We intend to expand our work over the coming years, increasing the range of orchids that we look after and developing our research and laboratory propagation programme too.”

Launch of a new persica rose hybrid at RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival

A brand-new persica rose will also be launched at the world-renowned flower show by National Plant Collection Holder Daniel Myhill, a first-time exhibitor whose display will be in the Plant Heritage zone. The beautiful new ‘SEE YOU in rosé’ has already won awards, and now thanks to a collaboration between Daniel, Kordes Roses and plant retailer Marshalls Garden, it’s the first persica hybrid release in the UK from the celebrated breeder Kordes Roses. Growing to about 70cm tall and 50cm wide, this pretty-in-pink persica rose has open, semi-double flowers with a deep reddish pink eye, perfect for a range of pollinators. It can be pre-ordered as bare root from Marshalls Garden this autumn, and a donation of £2 from every sale will be made to Plant Heritage.



© Kordes Roses

Plant Heritage to showcase this year’s ‘Missing Collections’ within the Floral Marquee

Plant Heritage will showcase a range of its National Plant Collections, including *Kniphofia* from the Eden Project, *Rubus* from Barry Clarke and *Hosta* (miniature and small) from Hogarth Hostas. The charity’s display (PH117a) will show that Collections can be grown anywhere – inside homes, at specialist nurseries or even in pub and prison gardens. Some of the plant groups on the charity’s pollinator friendly ‘Missing Collections’ 2024 list will also be highlighted as Plant Heritage seeks to find new owners for 15 different plant groups that aren’t currently part of a National Plant Collection.

And, as always, Plant Heritage’s popular seed shop will be up-and-running, and the winner of the Threatened Plant of the Year 2024 will be announced too.

To find out more about Plant Heritage, visit www.plantheritage.org.uk

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[2] Press release

For immediate release: 24th June 2024

These plants need you! Gardeners called to set up a National Plant Collection from new 'Missing Collections' list published by Plant Heritage

Without being part of a National Plant Collection, these environmentally friendly plant groups could be at risk in the future. Could you be their new owner?

Plant Heritage has published a brand-new 'Missing Collections' list, highlighting 15 environmentally friendly plant groups that aren't currently part of a National Plant Collection. Without someone to care for them, they're at risk of being lost if they fall out of fashion or are no longer available from nurseries.

To ensure this doesn't happen, the horticultural conservation charity is calling for passionate gardeners across the country to consider starting a National Plant Collection to protect one of the plant groups on the list, and to join the Plant Heritage community in growing, sharing and saving plants.



Argyranthemum 'Vancouver' (L) and *Potentilla* 'Gloire de Nancy' (R), two plants listed on Plant Heritage's 'Missing Collections' 2024 list. Credit Plant Heritage (L) and Clive Nichols (R). [High-res images, and others, are available]

This year all 15 plant groups listed have a hugely important environmental value, with many providing a fundamental source of nectar for pollinators large and small. These include *Agastache* (relatives of sage and mint which are a magnet for bees and hoverflies), *Argyranthemum* (large daisy shaped flowers which boast a long blooming season, perfect for pollinators), *Caryopteris* (fluffy blue-purple shrubs which are one of the most important plants for wildlife in late summer and are usually buzzing with bees and butterflies) and *Phlomis* (whose seed heads are a key food source for goldfinches and siskins come autumn). Some of the plants on this year's Missing Collections 2024* list will be showcased on Plant Heritage's stand PH117a at RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival in early July.

To view the full list, visit: www.plantheritage.org.uk/national-plant-collections/missing-collections-2024/

Gwen Hines, Chief Executive at Plant Heritage, says: “Recognising plants that aren’t currently protected by being part of a National Plant Collection is hugely important. Many people may not realise that plants considered to be thriving might actually be at risk in the future if they don’t become part of an ongoing conservation scheme today.”

“Since 2016 we’ve highlighted many different plants that need a forever home and I’m thrilled that 12 different collections have been set up as a result, including hollyhocks and *Hoya*. Most recently, a collection of fragrant *Daphne* was accredited in March and now thrives at RHS Garden Wisley having previously been listed as a Missing Collection. It is now safe, and we hope that other plants on this year’s list will become part of a National Plant Collection soon too.”

There are over 700 different National Plant Collections in the UK containing over 95,000 plants, from garden favourites such as bright dahlias and fragrant roses, to edible herbs and photogenic houseplants. The majority are created and cared for by individuals, but specialist plant nurseries, gardening groups, botanical gardens and other organisations such as heritage estates, universities and even zoos also hold collections. Each collection ensures that a huge diversity of plants are kept alive, and in doing so form a vital resource which can help us adapt to and mitigate against the challenges of climate change.

Gwen adds: “Collections are much more accessible than we think. Anyone can be a collection holder – you don’t need to have a huge garden or acres of space, we only ask that you have a passion for plants and conservation. We have some stunning collections held inside homes, greenhouses and conservatories, showing that collections can be successful anywhere.”

Plant Heritage champions and conserves garden plants to ensure they are conserved for future generations, especially those under threat from loss of habitat, climate change, emerging pests and diseases or changing trends. Founded in 1978, the charity has grown enormously into a thriving and open community of passionate National Plant Collection Holders, Plant Guardians, members and volunteers who together work to protect the UK’s horticulture.

To start a National Plant Collection of one of the plants listed, or to find out more about Plant Heritage, visit www.plantheritage.org.uk

*The full [Missing Collections 2024](#):

1. *Agastache*: Relatives of sage and mint, these up-and-coming plants are best suited to sunny, well drained borders and are magnet for larger pollinators such as bees and hoverflies.
2. *Argyranthemum*: Often grown in pots, their large daisy shaped flowers add bursts of colour from late spring to the first frosts. Their long blooming season attracts a range of pollinators too, including honeybees.
3. *Baptisia*: These sumptuous, bright blue upright blooms are relatively easy to grow, with some drought tolerance. A favourite with bees, large hoverflies and other insects.
4. *Caryopteris*: Best in a sunny border or gravel garden with free-draining soil, these fluffy blue-purple flowers are striking in late summer and early autumn, providing late-season nectar for butterflies and bees.
5. *Clethra*: Also known as Summersweet these fragrant flowers and their nectar attract a wide variety of butterflies and songbirds in the summer, and seeds in winter.
6. *Coreopsis*: This low maintenance plant is suitable in beds, borders and containers. Its aster-like flowers add yellow, pink, cream and red tones, attracting an array of insects.
7. *Gaillardia*: Known as blanket flowers for their masses of richly coloured, daisy-like flowers in vivid shades of red, yellow and orange. Perfect for a wildlife garden, they bloom from late spring to early autumn and appeal to butterflies, bees, beetles and birds for their seeds.

8. *Ligularia*: Another daisy-like flower, these imposing herbaceous perennials are ideal in boggy areas and alongside water features, and cater well for butterflies, bees and hoverflies.
9. *Lysimachia*: Related to *Primula* and *Lythrum*, they thrive in full sun if the soil remains moist. They form upright dense spikes with yellow or white flowers, and their pollen and nectar attracts many species. Some types also produce floral oils which attract loosestrife bees.
10. *Origanum*: Native to the Mediterranean these aromatic plants are perfect in a drought tolerant garden or rock garden, or in a sunny border. They are an outstanding source of nectar and pollen and are often covered in an array of butterflies and the tiny mint moth.
11. *Osteospermum*: Also known as the Cape or African Daisy, these long-lasting colourful flowers are beautiful from summer to autumn. Another favourite with pollinators.
12. *Phlomis*: These herbaceous perennials and evergreen shrubs are tolerant of dry soils and thrive in sunshine. Their seed heads provide food for birds and make an interesting winter garden feature, too.
13. *Philadelphus*: Mock Oranges are tall shrubs with rich citrus-scented flowers in early summer. Perfect as a bountiful backdrop to roses with its masses of white flowers, they not only look beautiful but are very easy to grow as they adapt well to most soil types.
14. *Potentilla* (herbaceous): This huge but recognisable genus flowers from late spring through to autumn. It's a favourite of many pollinators and is one of the known food sources for the larvae of the rare grizzled skipper butterfly.
15. *Verbascum*: With their distinctive, upright spires of flowers, these pretty perennials (or biennials) – which come in white, yellow, orange, blue or purple – are great for bees, hoverflies and moths.

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Notes to editors

For high-res images, interview requests or to receive Plant Heritage's press pack, please contact Adela Cragg on:

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Available for interview:

- Gwen Hines, Chief Executive, Plant Heritage
- Gill Groombridge, Business Manager, Plant Heritage
- David Mathers, Gill Mathers and Jim Durrant, The Mathers Foundation [for Brickell Award PR]

About Plant Heritage

- Founded in 1978, [Plant Heritage](#) is the world's leading cultivated plant conservation charity, for plants that have been collected, bred or grown in UK gardens.
- [Plant Heritage](#) aims to conserve and safeguard the UK's horticultural heritage and diversity of garden plants by keeping living examples of rare plants in the [National Plant Collections](#)[®] scheme, or with [Plant Guardians](#)[®] (who grow and nurture one or more rare and unusual plants in their own garden or house)
- [Plant Heritage's National Plant Collections](#)[®] are living plant libraries, showcasing the amazing diversity of our nation's cultivated plants. They are created, and curated, by individuals or organisations who are passionate about protecting the diversity of our rich flora
- [Plant Heritage](#) aims to: increase the variety of garden plants available across the UK, educate and raise awareness about the plight of rare garden plants via the annual [Plant Exchange](#)[™], plant sales and propagation events; ensure rare plants and collections are supported for generations to enjoy today and tomorrow; and identify which plant cultivars are at risk of disappearing through their [Threatened Plants Programme](#)[™], so plans can be made to protect them

- [Plant Heritage](#) relies on donations and gifts to encourage, support and accredit National Plant Collections. To donate, become a member or to find out how you can help, visit www.plantheritage.org.uk. Every donation is greatly appreciated.
- [Plant Heritage](#) can also be found on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#)

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