

PLANTS, PEOPLE AND PLANET



ROYAL
BOTANIC
GARDEN
EDINBURGH



Our Impact
at a Glance

FOUR GARDENS, ONE BOTANIC WORLD

“This is a pivotal moment in the history of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh as we confront the biodiversity crisis and climate emergency — two of the greatest challenges our planet has ever faced. We are proud to be making a real and lasting difference.

The dedication of our staff and volunteers, the strength of our partnerships, and the generosity of our supporters empower us to drive meaningful change.

We invite you to join us on this crucial journey as we continue to protect, celebrate, and nurture the extraordinary diversity of plants and fungi that sustain all known life on Earth. Together, we can make a lasting impact.

Thank you for your support.”

– Simon Milne, Regius Keeper
April 2025

VISION

A positive future for plants, people and the planet.

MISSION

To explore, conserve and explain the world of plants.





355

years of botanical
collections and expertise

11,500

members supporting
our work

1 MILLION

annual visitors across
our Gardens

270

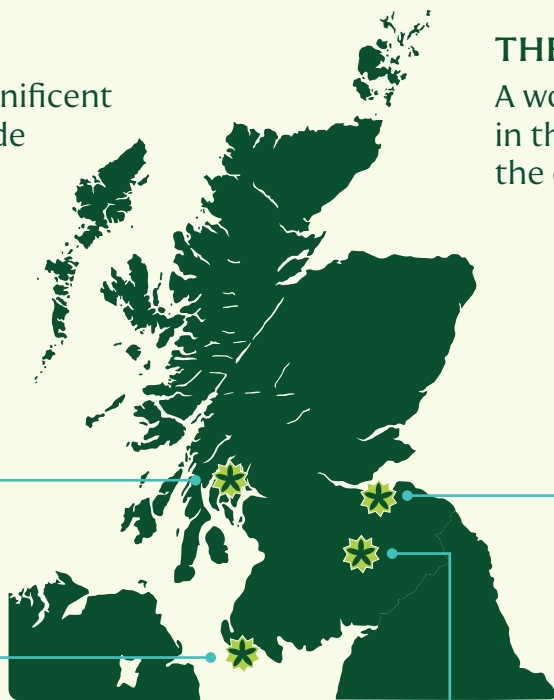
acres of protected
biodiversity

BENMORE

Argyll's magnificent
mountainside
garden

THE BOTANICS

A world of plants
in the heart of
the city



LOGAN

An exotic paradise
for plant lovers

DAWYCK

The world's trees in
the Scottish Borders



A GLOBAL RESOURCE



13,600

different plant species
cared for

3 MILLION+

preserved specimens in
our Herbarium

45,000+

plants protected
under glass

1 MILLION+

items in our Library
and Archive

IMPACT IN FOCUS

Herbarium Digitisation

This monumental project aims to make the complete Herbarium collection openly accessible online in high resolution images.

The digitisation milestone of one million specimens was celebrated in 2024. The project is continuing to accelerate thanks to funding partners including the Botanicals Foundation and the American Friends of the Botanicals Foundation, bridging the gap between this invaluable botanical resource and those who need it most.

Democratising access to reference collections such as these provides scientists around the globe with an enriched understanding of the environment in their quest to conserve our fragile habitats.



UNLOCKING KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

EVERY WEEK

a new species is described
to science

300+

safe sites protecting
endangered conifer species

664

research papers published
in five years

THREEFOLD

increase in populations of
the alpine-blue sowthistle

IMPACT IN FOCUS

Scottish Plant Recovery

This major biodiversity restoration project is creating new populations of ten, top-priority rare and threatened Scottish plants: five structural, habitat-building trees and five ground flora species.

After genetic research and careful propagation in Edinburgh, these species are translocated into protected new sites where they can flourish. The project is made possible with support and collaboration from the Scottish Government via NatureScot, players of People's Postcode Lottery, landowners and volunteers.





40+

countries with research and
conservation collaboration

4,000

people trained to eradicate
invasive species in Nepal

FIRST

UK-China scientific laboratory
at the Jade Dragon Field Station

15,000

species DNA-barcoded with
Biodiversity Genomics Europe

IMPACT IN FOCUS

Exposing rubber-led deforestation

Utilising advanced satellite data, a groundbreaking study led by the Botanicus and international partners has quantified how vast areas of tropical forests, in Southeast Asia, have been cleared for rubber plantations.

The work highlights the urgent need for certification schemes and awareness of supply chains, and provides vital data to support protection of both the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and these fragile ecosystems.



ENRICHING AND EMPOWERING



IN ONE YEAR:

6,000

global learners enrolled
in education courses

7,500

participants benefitting
from *Engaging Gardens*

8,000

children inspired through
schools outreach

54,000

visitors to our arts and exhibition
programme at Inverleith House

IMPACT IN FOCUS

MSc Biodiversity and Taxonomy of Plants

Our Masters course, run jointly with the University of Edinburgh, focuses on understanding the diversity of the world of plants and fungi. It is a unique programme delivered by leading scientists and recognised experts to an international cohort, making the most of the Botanics' global plant collection and fieldwork opportunities.

The annual number of graduating students has more than doubled since 2018. This provides pathways for more botanists to become the next generation of environmental changemakers, building capacity in biodiversity-rich regions around the world.



IMPACT IN FOCUS

Engaging Gardens

This activity programme at the Botanics Cottage fosters community participation and environmental awareness to a diverse audience, from refugees to people living with dementia, and is delivered thanks to individual donations and support from players of People's Postcode Lottery.

Year-round workshops, gardening groups, cooking sessions and pop-up events enhance mental wellbeing and inspire a deeper appreciation for plants. Local volunteers help in the Cottage's organic Kitchen Garden, with regular deliveries to our cafés ensuring visitors can enjoy fresh garden-grown produce.



A GARDEN FOR THE FUTURE

FIRST

UK public garden to be
Plant Healthy accredited

25%

gross reduction in
CO₂ emissions in five years

400+

annual stakeholder visits to
the climate-resilient Raingarden

1,500KG+

Kitchen Garden annual
organic harvest

IMPACT IN FOCUS

Restored Heritage, Greener Glasshouses

Restoration and reopening of the treasured Palm Houses will mark the first key milestone in the transformation of our Edinburgh glasshouses. It will be achieved with support from thousands of individuals and many charitable funders including the National Lottery Heritage Fund, thanks to National Lottery players.

Upon replanting we will welcome back researchers and visitors alike to study, nurture and delight in our precious indoor collection. Work continues on a new Energy Centre which, paired with strengthened glass, will reduce glasshouse carbon emissions by 27%.



OUR SUPPORTERS



Our continued work is only possible with the generous support of those who share our passion for plants and concern for the planet. For each and every way you already support us, thank you.

There are many ways to deepen your involvement and further advance our conservation work.

JOIN AS A MEMBER

Protect our planet's future and gain access to four of the most beautiful gardens in the world.

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

Join over 250 volunteers in a variety of roles, from enhancing visitor experience to specific projects and events.

SUPPORT OUR APPEALS

Make an immediate, direct impact with a one-off or regular gift to the Botanic's latest priorities.

BECOME A PATRON

Extend your support, enjoying special privileges and behind-the-scenes events in the Curator's Circle and Regius Keeper's Circle.

REMEMBER US IN YOUR WILL

Help sow the seeds of the Garden's future and make a lasting impact with a legacy pledge.

PARTNER WITH THE BOTANICS

Progress our conservation work and promote your organisation's commitment to the natural world.

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN EDINBURGH



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Patron **His Majesty The King**

Email development@rbge.org.uk
Visit www.rbge.org.uk/support-us

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