

California Plant Rescue (CaPR) member institutions make conservation collections of seeds and living plants to secure high levels of genetic diversity in off-site

collections, such as botanic gardens and seed banks, to safeguard wild populations in a time of uncertainty. We also gather information about wild populations to ensure that baseline of information is available for future generations.



BUILDING CAPACITY • STRENGTHENING COLLABORATIONS



6 New Staff

CA Biodiv funding facilitated the addition of new staff positions at CaPR institutions



3 New Germination Chambers

CaPR institutions purchased germination chambers for seed viability testing, a key component to conservation seed banking



Diverse Partnerships

CaPR collaborates with organizations in the state, federal, and nonprofit sectors to achieve our conservation goals









EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2020, CaPR members tripled their annual rate of seed collecting and added 149 new rare plant species (California Rare Plant Rank [CRPR]1B) to conservation seed banks, despite the challenges of a global pandemic and a record-breaking wildfire season. We are now 64% of the way to the goal of seed banking 1,166 CRPR1B rare plants by 2025. We also expanded institutional capacity to secure California's plant diversity by adding six new staff members; purchasing valuable infrastructure equipment such as germination chambers, cryopreservation tanks, and generators for backup power; and obtaining supplies like seed sieves and drying chambers. CaPR members also shared information about our work at more than 20 events with state and federal agencies, the scientific community and the general public. California Biodiversity Initiative funds allowed CaPR members not only to increase the number of rare plants represented in seed banks, but also to expand the geographic scope of our work. In 2020, CaPR collections ranged from Mount Shasta to San Diego, and from the Central Coast to Death Valley.

2025 GOAL 1,166 1B Rare Plant Species Banked	
2020 64 %	
2019 52 %	
2018 47 %	
2014 30 %	

GOALS

The long-term goal of CaPR is **to secure the entire California flora in conservation collections, with an emphasis on seed collections.** In the near term, we are focusing on protecting the most vulnerable plants first. In 2018, the State of California launched the California Biodiversity Initiative, providing a roadmap for protecting the state's natural heritage. In 2019, the state legislature provided funding for conservation seed collections, with the express goal of leveraging the accomplishments and infrastructure of CaPR members to ramp up seed banking efforts across California. The ambitious goal set forth by the California Biodiversity Initiative is to seed bank or otherwise conserve all of California's rarest plants by 2025, and we are well on our way to meeting that goal.

Conservation collections of both seeds and living plants, stored in seed banks and living collections at botanic gardens, provide the raw materials for the enhancement, restoration and reintroduction of wild plant populations, while also **providing an insurance policy against extinction**. As we advance the long-term conservation of these rare plants, we also increase our understanding of their biology and ecology via field observations, germination testing and propagation. Thus, our seed banking efforts not only provide for long-term storage of invaluable genetic material, but also feed directly into **comprehensive strategies for plant conservation and recovery.**

MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

California Botanic Garden California Native Plant Society Center for Plant Conservation Mojave Desert Land Trust Regional Parks Botanic Garden Santa Barbara Botanic Garden San Diego Botanic Garden San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance Theodore Payne Foundation UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden UC Santa Cruz Arboretum & Botanic Garden

KEY PARTNERS

California Department of Fish and Wildlife California Department of Food and Agriculture California State Parks Local governments National Park Service U.S. Bureau of Land Management U.S. Department of Defense U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service U.S. Forest Service

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