



ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN

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Native Plants

The primary focus of the Garden conservation program is the monitoring, restoration and conservation of unique, species-rich bog communities.

Since its inception, the program has expanded to include work with 124 native plant species (22 are federally protected) throughout the Coastal Plain and southern Appalachian Mountains of the southeastern United States.

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What Can You Do?

Through propagation, outplanting, management and safeguarding, the Garden plays an active role in insuring the long-term survival of many rare and endangered plant species.

Donations to the Garden support the protection and restoration of threatened plant communities throughout the Southeast.

[More Information](http://www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org/get-involved/give-garden) (<http://www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org/get-involved/give-garden>)



Habitat Restoration

In the battle to save endangered species from extinction, habitat restoration is one of the most important weapons.

The right growing conditions must be maintained, or, in some cases, re-created to allow for increased viability and health of plant populations.

The Atlanta Botanical Garden's nature conservation program has developed simple, hands-on techniques for restoring natural habitats, in particular, bog habitats.

Managing sites with a combination of prescribed burning and hand-cutting is essential to controlling the growth of woody plants and to maintaining an open, herbaceous plant community.



Rare Species Recovery

The Atlanta Botanical Garden's role in recovery projects involves seed collection, propagation and growth of indexed individuals to be used for reintroduction and augmentation.

The Atlanta Botanical Garden conducts many projects in collaboration with as well as other members, and is under contract with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to assist in the recovery of several endangered plant species.

The Atlanta Botanical Garden is working on the recovery of the following federally endangered plant species: *Helonias bullata*, *Sarracenia oreophila*, *Sarracenia rubra* ssp. *alabamensis*, *Sarracenia rubra* ssp. *jonesii*, *Schwalbea americana*, *Torreya taxifolia*, *Geum radiatum* and *Hedyotis purpurea* var. *Montana*, *Liatris helleri*, *Solidago spithamea* and *Rhus michauxii*.



Tennessee Yellow Eyed Grass

Tennessee Yellow-eyed grass is not a grass at all but a small herbaceous perennial with grass-like leaves and a long stalk from which bloom yellow flowers with three petals. It is a member of the *Xyridaceae* (the yellow-eyed grass family) along with other species of ornamental wetland plants.



Tennessee yellow-eyed grass (*Xyris tennesseensis*) is known from only a handful of populations in Georgia, Tennessee, and Alabama, and these populations are disappearing rapidly, primarily due to habitat loss or change. It grows in open wetlands and requires wet areas in full sun for seeds to become established and grow. The plant is protected by the federal Endangered Species act and listed endangered in Georgia and Tennessee.

The Garden is partnering with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources – Nongame Conservation Section, Department of Transportation, Georgia Power, U.S. Forest Service and Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance on a project funded through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Five Star program to preserve this species, safeguard plants at the Garden and restore its habitat in northwest Georgia. The project will also preserve two other rare species in Georgia, Georgia Alder (*Alnus maritima* subspecies *georgiensis*) known from only one site in Georgia and Virginia spirea (*Spiraea virginiana*) known from two locations in Georgia.



Torreyya

Torreyya taxifolia, commonly known as the Florida Torreyya, is a rare and critically endangered species found in the Southeastern United States, at the state border region of northern Florida, and southwestern Georgia. Torreyya is an evergreen tree that may reach heights of up to 15 to 20 meters. The trees are conical in overall shape, with whorled branches and stiff sharp pointed, needle-like leaves. The leaves and cones have a strongly pungent resinous odor when crushed, leading to its popular names "Stinking Yew" and "Stinking Cedar".

The Atlanta Botanical Garden works to protect this endangered plant. The Garden's *Torreyya taxifolia* collection is nationally recognized. The Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) awarded sponsorship to the Garden for *Torreyya taxifolia*. The Garden's continued dedication to *Torreyya taxifolia*, which began more than 20 years ago, furthers understanding of its ecology and life cycle as well as the decline of this once majestic species.

The recently developed conservation nursery at the Smithgall Woodland Garden in Gainesville directly enhances this conservation effort. The sponsorship level designation nationally acknowledges the outstanding work that the Garden is accomplishing by maintaining and propagating one of the world's critically endangered plants.



Conserving the Pollinators

One of the broader impacts of conserving plants at the Garden is preserving habitats for rare animal species, including pollinators. Insects are one of the most important groups of pollinators in the Southeast. Visitors can observe a busy hive of honeybees in action in the Children's Garden. The Garden is partnering with the [Butterfly Conservation Initiative](http://www.butterflyrecovery.org/) (<http://www.butterflyrecovery.org/>) and the Greater Atlanta Pollinator Partnership to address native pollinator conservation.

Butterflies are just one group of insects in need of additional research and conservation and late summer is an ideal time at the Garden to observe them. As visitors walk the paths they will observe a flight of vibrant color above the blooming plant displays from butterflies such as *Papilionidae* (Tiger Swallowtail, Pipevine Swallowtail, Black Swallowtail, Spicebush Swallowtail), *Pieridae* (Orange Sulphur, Cloudless Sulphur, Sleepy Orange, Cabbage White), *Lycaenidae* (Red-banded hairstreak), *Nymphalidae* (Common Buckeye, Gulf Fritillary, Variegated Fritillary), and *Hesperiidae* (Common Checkered Skipper, Horace's Duskywing, Silverspotted Skipper, Clouded Skipper).



Conservation Partners

As a charter member of the [Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance \(GPCA\)](http://www.uga.edu/gpca/) (<http://www.uga.edu/gpca/>), an umbrella organization dedicated to harnessing horticultural advances in the name of conservation, the Atlanta Botanical Garden has been



instrumental in developing many of the horticultural techniques for rare plant propagation and restoration that have been applied in GPCA field projects.

In addition to the GPCA, the Garden is currently cooperating with the following conservation organizations to preserve and restore threatened plant communities in the Southeast:

- [Center for Plant Conservation](http://www.centerforplantconservation.org/welcome.asp) (<http://www.centerforplantconservation.org/welcome.asp>)
- [The Nature Conservancy](http://nature.org/) (<http://nature.org/>)
- [Alabama Natural Heritage Program](http://www.alnhp.org/) (<http://www.alnhp.org/>)
- [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](http://www.fws.gov/) (<http://www.fws.gov/>)
- [Georgia Department of Natural Resources](http://www.georgiawildlife.com/conservation) (<http://www.georgiawildlife.com/conservation>)



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