

HAVE WE WITNESSED A MASS EXTINCTION OF NW NATIVE PLANT SPECIES THESE PAST 20 YEARS?



To enrich Bonhoeffer Botanical Gardens' existing Natural Growth we created a target list of native plants (for zoo-like exhibitions) using well-known references including:

www.USDA, URL Links provided by NRCS. 2010 - the PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>, 24 April 2010) National Plant Data Center; also referenced was University of Washington's www.biology.burke.washington.edu/herbarium website that allows use for educational purposes, all crossreferenced to Hitchcock and Arthur Cronquist's Flora of the Pacific Northwest: An Illustrated Manual (University of Washington Press, 1976). Also referenced were the Washington Flora Checklist, E-Flora BC, CalPhotos, Wikipedia, WTU Herbarium Specimens, and PNW Herbaria Specimens, along with Eugene Kozloff's Plants of Western OR, WA & BC and Pecks' Manual of Higher Plants of Oregon (that we've now used for 50+ years).

3 sources, most 20+ years old, were required to agree that a plant was a NW native. Then we ordered signs!

Of 850 Plant Species Identified, ~500 have been Observed, ~425 species are planted and staked with nameplate signs. They exist as natural growth or from seeds or seedlings; i.e., not transplanted from the wild. ~425 signs that flank Peter's Cross (at the left) are unused.

~350 Plant Species have not been Found in 10 Years of Searching!

Since 2009 we have toured western WA, OR and BC. One can drive, walk, and be almost anywhere in Western Washington in a few hours' time. If plants exist today, should not one be able to find and photograph them?

"Many native plants did not survive the 2nd cutting."

was a common pioneer lament, now lost in time (and 3rd and 4th cuttings). Old-timers talked of:

- o Sprays (logging companies & governments)
- o increased # of collectors decreasing the # of seeds (annuals can disappear in a year)
- o pollution and climate change (bringing Pecks text's Oregon plants northward)
- o loss of habitat caused by invasive plant and animal species (including humans)
- o loss of pollinators (butterflies, bees, bats, etc.); our Gardens are bereft of native birds.

And a 3rd (of 4) Question(s):

Populations increase, are stable, decrease, or cease to exist (multipliers: >1, =1, <1, 0; over time, <1 = 0). Have the words: *rare, threatened, endangered, sensitive, imperiled, of concern* masked the <1 native plants' demise?

An Invitation to Seed Collectors

We are searching for seeds of NW native plants. Note "seeds;" BBG purchases seedlings only from established native nurseries, see: <http://www.plc215.org/sources>. Visit them; these plant nurseries/people are amazing!

Restoration

Over 100 of our members planted pairs of Golden Chinquapins here and there in January of 2018.

BECAUSE IF WE, AS INDIVIDUALS, DON'T SAVE OUR NW NATIVE PLANTS, WHO WILL?

www.plc215.org ... treating Earth as if it were Heaven

This is the NW's native botanical holocaust garden; it is a joint venture of the Pilchuck Learning Center and Freeborn Church. Visitors enter under the Revised Codes of Washington - RCW 4.24.200 & 4.24.210, allowing public recreational use, including nature study and viewing or enjoying scenic or scientific sites or waterways on private land. Visit the the Gardens at I-5's Exit 215, 2420 300th NW Stanwood, WA 98292.