

Hiroshima Botanical Garden -----Ecology Lab Report

The Hiroshima Botanical Garden is situated at latitude 34 23'N and longitude 132 20'E in the western Honshu facing to the Seto Inland Sea. Located on the hill 60 ~153m above sea level, it commands a whole view of Miyajima Island. The land area of the garden is 18.3 hectares and quite undulated. The climate is mild; the annual mean temperature 15.0, mean temperature of January 4.0C and August 26.9C, and the mean annual precipitation 1554.6mm.

The garden is municipal and was established on November 3, 1976 for citizen, as a relaxing and educational place to expand their knowledge of plants and of natural conservation. The garden arranges research laboratory, main conservatory, begonia display-house, fuchsia displayhouse, phylogenical garden, rock garden, Japanese garden, camellia garden utilizing the undulated land effectively

Plants Collection and Preservation

The garden has always made an effort to collect plants since it opened, and keeps about 10,220 taxa at the present time. Especially the garden has collected Orchidaceae with emphasis, and keeps 2,300 taxa, 10,000 plants of them. Those collection are used for exhibition or for study. The garden also preserves Japanese classical horticultural plants such as morning glory, Japanese iris and Japanese primrose, and show them to the public through each exhibition.

Greenhouses



The main conservatory is 2,186 m², and there are about 620 taxa, 10,960 individual plants from tropical to subtropical area. When you get inside the conservatory, you can see tropical fruits, tall palms, Orchids and so on, and you may feel as if you were in a tropical rain forest. The tall plants like queen palm or traveler's tree can grow to their ability because the conservatory is 21 meters high. Epiphytic orchids are put on the trees and the rocks in the conservatory; the natural habitat of those plants are simulated.

About 650 species and over 2,000 individuals of begonias are cultivated in the begonia display-house. This display-house is equipped with the air conditioner and the climate is kept cool in summer, warm in winter. The control of the lighting enabled the tuberous begonias to bloom, so you can enjoy large, bright flowers of those begonias all around the year. The foliage begonias whose leaves are unique shaped or beautiful patterned are exhibited, too.



In the fuchsia display-house, you can see wonderful fuchsias which is called 'LADY'S EARDROPS' all around year. You will be attracted by enormous flower form and color from pure white to the extremes of violet.

In the cactus display-house, not only Cactaceae but fleshy plant of Aizoaceae,



Liliaceae, Asclepiadaceae and Vitaceae which adapted to arid land are exhibited. You can see unique shapes of those plants occurred from the adaptation to the environment.

The nursery greenhouses are counted up to 10, the total 1,100 m², and they are used for raising seedlings for exhibition and preservation of strains of plants, mainly of Orchids.

Outside

Systematic garden is designed to follow the phyletic line of seed plants from the primitive types to the advanced types, so that the visitors can study about plant phyletic line as they walk through the garden. The monocotyledons are planted on the left side of the main pass and right side, the dicotyledons.

Rock garden is arranged with the rocks produced in Hiroshima prefecture and a soil mainly consisted of coarse sands, and wild plants and alpine plants of both domestic and foreign countries are exhibited here.

Tea ceremony house called "Washin-an" is founded in Japanese garden and you can hold a tea party on occasion. At the time of Irises in full bloom, you can hold a party enjoying the beautiful view of the Iris garden. Skunk Cabbages and Japanese Primroses are planted in a marsh at the end of the Japanese garden, and they spice an air of spring.

Camellia garden exhibits 200 varieties, 600 plants in varieties of Higotsubaki, Yabutsubaki, Yukitsubaki, Sazanka and etc.

Rose garden exhibits not only popular horticultural varieties but 110 species of wild Roses, 270 types of old Roses which are the origin of the current horticultural varieties. There are also a corner of the Roses according to Hiroshima city as a symbol of the peace.

Arboretum is arranged by using the red pine forest effectively, which is characteristic forest of the coast of Seto Inland Sea. Maple forest, evergreen forest and deciduous forest are also simulated, and you can stroll around observe them among a pass going through these forests. There's three exhibition site in the garden. About 40 exhibitions such as displays of Orchids, Chrysanthemum or Botanical arts are held in a year, so visitors can see new exhibition almost any time they visit. Lectures according to the exhibitions are held occasionally, and visitors can gain a new knowledge there.

Research Activities

Investigations of plant (mainly orchids) chromosomes, plant conservation, new propagation methods of Begonia and Orchids, new hybrid of Begonia and flora of Hiroshima prefecture are done in the garden. Such research results are published through the bulletin of the Hiroshima botanical garden every year. You can see articles by our website.

Seed Exchange Program.

The garden has taken part in seed exchange program since the garden had opened. At the present time, we exchange seed list with about 200 institutes of 34 foreign countries. The garden has introduced and grown a lot of plants by this program. There are 37 staffs working for the garden, and 23 of them take part in the work directly concerned with plants and cultivation.

Go back to [Nakagoshi & Xuan Lab](#) homepage.