

OPENING HOURS

Outdoor Garden March–Oct. Nov.–Feb.
Monday–Friday 7 am–7 pm 9 am–4 pm
Weekend, Holidays 9 am–7 pm 9 am–4 pm

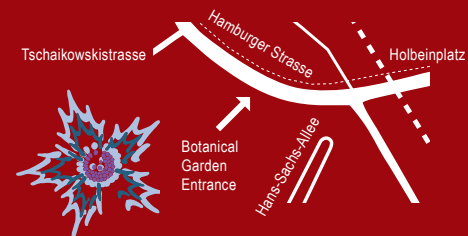
Loki Schmidt Greenhouses
Monday–Thursday 10 am–3 pm
Lunch break 12:30 pm–1 pm
Closed Friday–Sunday and Holidays

Admission is free.

How to find us

- By S-Bahn S1, S2, or S3, Trams 1, 2, or 5, or Bus 28 to S Holbeinplatz station
- By car: Parking is available on Hans-Sachs-Allee or Tschaukowskistrasse

Entrance on Hamburger Strasse/Holbeinplatz



University of Rostock

FACULTY OF MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCES

Institute of Biological Sciences
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Species Conservation

Due to the continued loss of species diversity and habitats, botanical gardens are playing an important role in species conservation. At the Rostock Botanical Garden, selected endangered plant species are cultivated *ex situ* with the goal of propagation and reintroduction into natural habitats. These species are native and sometimes endemic to northeastern Germany and threatened by extinction. When conditions allow, these species are also propagated in our 'habitat sections', which mimic the locations where the plants would occur naturally, but have become rare in the wild. In this way, species-rich meadows are extensively managed, in order to resemble the vegetation of the traditional cultural landscape. This enables the cultivation of larger and genetically richer plant populations of rare species for research and educational purposes.

Education and Educational Garden

Botanical gardens have the societal charge of creating environmental awareness and educating the public about the importance of biodiversity through activity-oriented learning for its conservation, and are therefore



In the Loki Schmidt greenhouses you can behold the beauty of plant species from the tropics, many of which come from Africa, Madagascar, and the Canary Islands, including many useful plants. In addition to carnivorous plants, emphasis is placed on the flora of tropical highland forests with epiphytes and aquatic plants.

Guided tours (in German) are offered mainly on Sundays at 2 pm throughout the year. Springtime Fest, the Long Night of Sciences, the Low German Book Day, the Botanical Garden Week, the International Children's Day, and the Mushroom and Fungus Exhibition of Mecklenburg-West Pomerania are special highlights during the year. Group tours in English are available upon request.

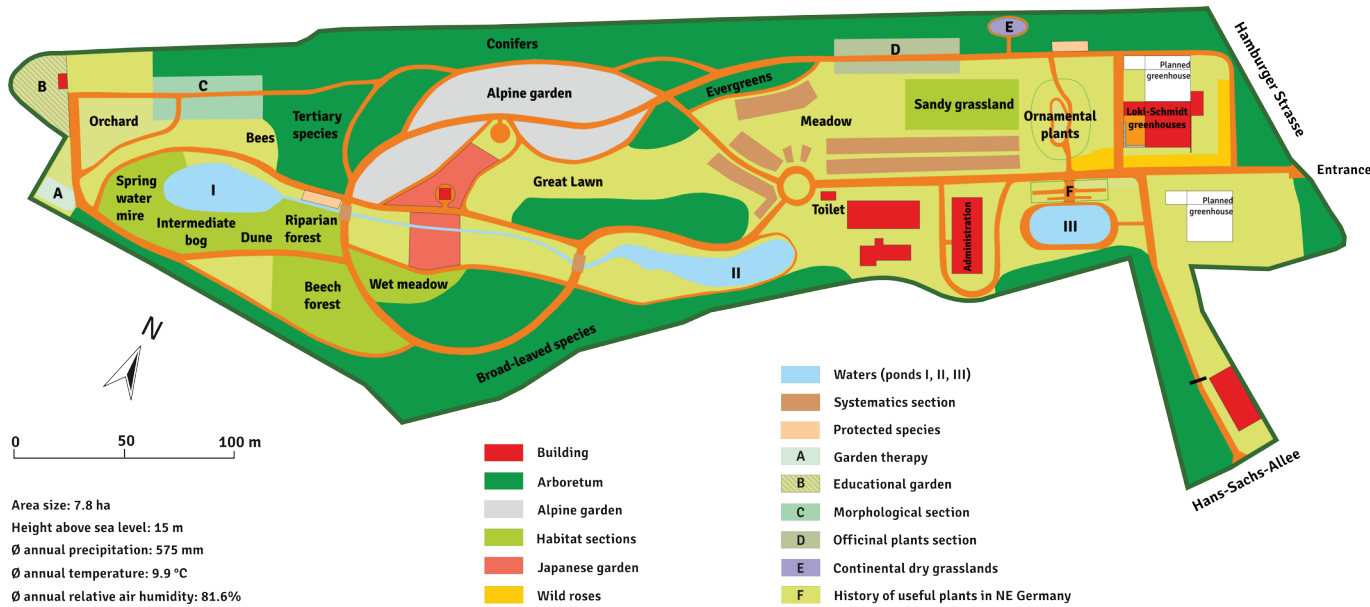


requested to act as concentration points of biodiversity education. In addition to the general education of university students, an educational garden exists within the Rostock Botanical Garden for the education of future secondary schoolteachers along with schoolchildren of all ages through the Department of Biology Didactics. Lessons on the topics of plant diversity and environmental issues take place with children's groups and classes as a part of the project 'Unigarten macht Schule'. A garden-therapy training program is offered for those looking for furthering their professional qualifications.

Friends of the Botanical Garden

The Friends of the Botanical Garden is a non-profit association that works to support the interests of the Botanical Garden. It is concerned with arousing the public's interest about the necessity of conservation and research regarding important plant species and providing comprehensive information on the tasks of Botanical Gardens, worldwide flora, and the value and protection of biodiversity. The association functions as a lobby group for the interests of the garden and seeks sponsors and supporters. They also hold lectures, exhibitions, practical demonstrations, and excursions. Contact via the Botanical Garden.





Respecting and Protecting Diversity

The University of Rostock Botanical Garden is a scientific facility for research, teaching, education about the importance of biodiversity, and the cultivation of rare plant species. Opened in 1939, it has become a historical landmark that serves as a source of information and a green oasis in the city available to the general public. Some 7,000 plant species are displayed and organically cultivated in a variety of areas in the 7.8-hectare garden, including scientific sections, distinct ecological habitats, greenhouses, and an educational garden.



Systematics Section and Arboretum

The systematics section and the corresponding arboretum display plants grouped according to their evolutionary relatedness, and show the great variety of the plant world, which is the product of long evolutionary processes along different pathways during different eras. The arboretum spreads throughout the entire garden.

Morphological Biological Section

The traits of plants reflect interactions with the surrounding environment. This section acts as a guide through resulting functional adaptations in plants as they have evolved from interactions with other plants, animals, microorganisms, and the abiotic environment. This has taken place in an often similar way on different continents and in plant groups of different ancestry. Some 300 plant species are displayed, thematically organized according to their adaptations.

A flower of the cactus *Selenicereus hamatus*, a close relative of the ‘queen of the night’, at early dawn.

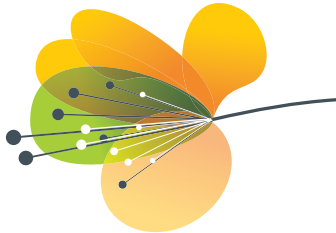


Official Plants Section

A large number of plants contain useful substances, which are of utmost importance for human consumption, medicine, handmade goods, technology etc. Most of today’s spices and medicinal remedies are plant-based. At many universities, professors of medicine were the first to establish collections of medicinal plants that today’s botanical gardens often have emerged from. So it was in Rostock where the first collection of medicinal plants was established in 1568 already. In our present official plants section, you will find plants arranged according to their main compounds and corresponding uses.

Habitat Sections

In the habitat sections of the garden, plants are allowed to grow as they would in nature. Ecological conditions and species interactions are the decisive factors in these areas. The coastal dune, spring and moist meadows, sandy grassland, beech forest, alder carr, bog, ponds and a small stream reflect the importance of the ecological habitat for the development of diversity in the plant kingdom. Most of the represented habitats have become very rare in the German cultural landscape and are rich in threatened species.

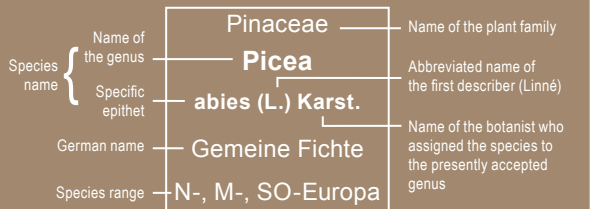


Alpine Garden

An attraction in the outdoor area is the 0.5-hectare alpine garden, which has no equal in northern Germany. Plants from all of the major mountain regions worldwide are represented here. You can discover quite particular and colorful adaptations in plants that the complex of extreme environmental factors on limestone-based or silicate-based soils has provoked during the evolution of plants at high montane to alpine altitudes. On the other hand, many adaptations have evolved in an interestingly similar way (convergent evolution) in very different groups of the plant system. The plants are cultivated accordingly in the silicate rock or limestone section, and then arranged according to their geographical range.

Labeling of Plants

In order to communicate information about plants across language barriers, international regulations for scientific nomenclature have been developed. Accordingly, all species names consist of the parent genus followed by the specific epithet:



Subspecies are indicated by the abbreviation “ssp.” and varieties (cultivars) by “cv.”, or simply by including the variety name in single quotation marks. Plant label **red**: poisonous plant, **yellow**: ex-situ conservation species—please take special care!