

An Invitation to join the Pan-European seed-list search system

An Initiative from the EUROPEAN BOTANIC GARDENS CONSORTIUM

How the The Pan-European seed-list search system will work:

The proposal is to utilise a simple code word – [ebgconsortiumindexseminum2009](#) – to provide a unique identifier to every on-line seed-list issued by a European garden during 2009. Thus an internet search engine can be queried for this term plus a genus or even species name, thereby making the search for a particular taxon from current seed lists a work of moments. By adding a four figure year at the end of the code word, it is hoped to avoid ‘dead’ pages building up over the years. If successful it is hoped to roll this system out at a global level. Since no central organisation, compilation or databasing is required, there should be no costs or administration other than co-operation by participating seed-list managers over the coming years.



Example search for “Saruma”, producing the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin on-line seed-list for 2008.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Any garden within Europe can take part in the scheme. There are no membership requirements, registrations or costs involved, other than producing an on-line seed list.
2. Both wild collected and/or cultivated plants may be included.
3. Issues of the CBD, in particular those governing Access and Benefit-sharing, Material Transfer Agreements, the International Plant Exchange Network (IPEN), as well as the legal authorization to share seeds are the responsibility of individual gardens, and no garden taking part is obligated to transfer seeds to third parties if they do not wish to do so.
4. For seed collected during the calendar year 1/1/2008 to 31/12/2008, the code word will be [ebgconsortiumindexseminum2009](#) It must have no characters or punctuation attached at either end.
5. The word must occur at least once on every file of the on-line seed-list. The seed-list can be an HTML file, a text file or a pdf document. The word can be visible as a line on the screen, or in a META tag, or hidden in an invisible (i.e. white on white) font.
6. If you wish to include your seed-list in the system, then the webpage must be linked from a home page or scientific page on your web site, otherwise the page may not be visible to internet search engines. This may be an invisible link (i.e. ` `).
7. If you have problems with the page not being found by search engines then please submit the URL to various Search Engines, or to myself, and I will place it on the following page – www.botanicgardens.ie/ebg/
8. Please do not use [ebgconsortiumindexseminum2009](#) on bulletin boards etc, since otherwise these will clutter up searches for seeds. If you need to tell people about the code word on a bulletin board, then put an underline or space into the word, i.e. “[ebgconsortiumindexseminum_2009](#)” and tell people to remove the _ on their webpage.

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