

## International Plant Exchange Network (IPEN)

A system for the exchange of non-commercial plant material between botanic gardens, based on the CBD

A European Botanic Gardens Consortium project

Much of the work of botanic gardens depends on the exchange of plant material between gardens and on access to plant material from the wild. International seed exchange, which takes place free of charge, has a long-standing tradition and runs within a more or less closed circuit of botanic gardens and other botanic research organizations. Consequently botanic gardens, as recipients of genetic resources on the one hand and as institutions supplying plant material on the other hand, are deeply affected by the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).



Country	No of IPEN gardens
Argentina	1
Austria	7
Belgium	2
France	5
Finland	2
Germany	43
Greece	3
Hungary	2
Italy	4
Luxembourg	1
Netherlands	21
Portugal	5
Spain	6
Sweden	3
Switzerland	15
UK	3

The IPEN network aims to facilitate the exchange of plant material between member gardens while respecting the Access and Benefit-Sharing regulations of the CBD. Gardens that wish to join the network must sign and abide by a Code of Conduct that sets out gardens' responsibilities for acquisition, maintenance and supply of living plant material and associated benefit-sharing. Acquisition or supply of material with extra terms and conditions, or any use for commercial purposes, is not covered by the network and requires the use of appropriate Material Transfer Agreements.

To date, 123 botanic gardens and arboreta from 16 countries have joined the IPEN network.

