

Pyrus cordata Desv.

Plymouth Pear

Key:

Dots refer to the native sites of the species

Numbers refer to the nearby Botanical Collections



Starting references

Family

Rosaceae

IUCN category (2001)

Vulnerable

Habit

Small hedgerow tree up to 10 m high.

Habitat type

It is impossible to determine its favoured habitat as the plants occur in only two locations that are intensively managed.

Reasons for decline

Rare populations and low seed-fertility.

Distribution in wild

Country	Locality & Vice County	Sites (10km ² occurrences)	Population (plants)
England	A light-industrial estate in Plymouth and near Truro	7	few

Ex situ Collections

Gardens close to the region of distribution of the species

- 1 St Michael's Mount (NT)
- 2 Duchy College
- 3 Trebah Garden Trust
- 4 Glendurgan Gardens
- 5 Trellisick (NT)
- 6 Tregothnan Botanic Garden
- 7 Eden Project
- 8 Lilac Cottage
- 9 Tregrehan

Gardens of specialisation on genus *Pyrus*

Brogdale Horticultural Trust

York Museum Gardens

Potential to grow the species in ex situ Collections

From Plants For A Future

- Propagation

Propagation by seed - best sown in a cold frame as soon as it is ripe in the autumn, it will then usually germinate in mid to late winter. Stored seed requires 8 - 10 weeks cold stratification at 1°C and should be sown as early in the year as possible. Temperatures over 15 - 20°C induce a secondary dormancy in the seed. Prick out the seedlings into individual pots when they are large enough to handle and grow them on in light shade in a cold frame or greenhouse for their first year. Plant them out in late spring or early summer of the following year.

- Cultivation

Prefers a good well-drained loam in full sun. Grows well in heavy clay soils. Tolerates light shade but does not fruit so well in such a position. Tolerates atmospheric pollution, excessive moisture and a range of soil types if they are moderately fertile. Established plants are drought tolerant.

Plants are hardy to about -15°C.

Conservation information

Pyrus cordata is listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981

Linkages to BAPs

South Gloucestershire Local Biodiversity Action Plan
Stroud District, Gloucestershire

Habitat Management

Protected sites with records for *Pyrus cordata* are listed on <http://www.searchnbn.net>

Known conservation programmes

Cultivation of clonal material in botanic gardens and arboreta and long-term storage of seeds.

In Plymouth, 28 suckers of local origin have been successfully transplanted to semi-natural areas managed as Local Nature Reserves.

A new population has been established at Lanhydrock, including seeds produced from cross-pollination between Truro and Plymouth populations and an agreed management plan prepared.

Molecular research has confirmed a genetic difference between the Truro and Plymouth plants, but no genetic variation has been found within either population.

Planting of both genotypes and seedlings raised from controlled hybridisations between them began in November 1995. Plants should start sexual reproduction by about 2010.

Web References

- Plants For A Future Database: http://www.ibiblio.org/pfaf/cgi-bin/arr_html?Pyrus+cordata&CAN=LATIND
- NBN Gateway database: <http://www.searchnbn.net>