

WHAT SERVICES DO WE PROVIDE?

Hoyt Arboretum Herbarium, part of Portland Parks & Recreation, provides plant identification services for local natural resource agencies. The herbarium is also open to students, researchers, and other members of the public. Contact us for more information or to make an appointment.

For more information about Hoyt Arboretum, the herbarium, classes, and volunteering opportunities, call (503) 865-8733 or visit www.hoytarboretum.org.



Hoyt Arboretum Herbarium (HAH)

Take a few minutes to view some of our beautifully displayed dried plant specimens, browse through our extensive book library, and enjoy your visit!



HOYT ARBORETUM HERBARIUM

4000 SW Fairview Blvd.

Portland, OR 97221

www.hoytarboretum.org

WELCOME TO HOYT ARBORETUM HERBARIUM!

OUR HERBARIUM is a collection of pressed and dried plant specimens mainly comprising plants from Hoyt Arboretum. Our continually expanding collection also contains significant native and non-native invasive plants from around the region.

WHAT IS AN HERBARIUM?

An herbarium is a reference library of dead plants called herbarium specimens. Each specimen includes a flattened and dried plant mounted with glue or linen tape on a sheet of archival paper. The label on each specimen specifies what, where, when, and by whom it was collected. Herbarium specimens, also called vouchers, are scientific records that can last hundreds of years. They provide historical proof that a plant existed in a certain time and place. Vouchers are a standard reference for determining a plant's place of origin.

Our specimens are organized by plant family, then by genus and species. They are a treasure trove of information for students, researchers, gardeners, wildflower enthusiasts, pharmacologists, geneticists, conservationists, and farmers seeking to identify weeds.



The label on each specimen displays the plant family, genus, and species; Hoyt accession number; collector and collection date; and location and habitat information.

WHAT QUESTIONS CAN BE ANSWERED FROM HERBARIUM SPECIMENS?

HERBARIUM SPECIMENS form the basis for much of the information published in floras and guidebooks. Herbarium specimens are also used to:

- Definitively identify plant species
- Document the form and color variability of plants growing in the wild
- Record floristic diversity for a given area
- Communicate historic conditions to inform ecological restoration and conservation efforts
- Serve as a source of plant and pathogen genetic material
- Track shifts in a plant species' range over time
- Inform public policies on species protection
- Document changes in when plants bloom due to shifting climate and environmental conditions
- Track range expansions and contractions for a given species

WHY DO VOUCHERS MATTER?

HERBARIUM SPECIMENS, OR VOUCHERS, are a standard, long-lasting reference for determining a plant's identity and place of origin. Scientists use vouchers to study climate change; biodiversity; and plant extinction, disease, and evolution. Even the public can use vouchers, for instance, to distinguish between closely related plants. Importantly, the vouchers in our herbarium document the trees growing in the Hoyt Arboretum, strengthening our scientific standing and allowing others remote access to our collections via Hoyt's online plant database.