

## Index Seminum

The UBC Botanical Garden Index Seminum, or Seed List, has been published biennially in mid-winter for at least 60 years (official records begin in 1942-43). Seeds offered for exchange with botanical gardens, arboreta and other institutions are collected from the wild and from the garden during the previous summer and autumn. At first, the Botanical Garden mostly collected seeds of wild origin from within BC, but some identification is now unclear because botanical authorship was not applied to the various taxa. Today, emphasis has shifted so that the Index contains approximately 50% wild-origin seed (from within and outside BC) and 50% garden seed. This is possible because the garden has assembled increasingly high-quality collections of germplasm from wild, overseas locations. As with all other gardens, we need to address the complex issues arising from the Convention for Biological Diversity.

The 1999 Index Seminum drew requests for 959 packets of seed from 145 institutions and individuals. The filling of orders depends entirely on the amount of seed collected, which in turn depends on factors such as local climate and length of growing season. The most frequently requested taxa were: *Trollius laxus* subsp. *albiflorus* (43), *Primula parryi* (42), *Penstemon montanus* (40), *Penstemon fruticosus* var. *scouleri* (31), *Corydalis scouleri* (29), *Caulthleya gracilis* (28), *Boykinia jamesii* (27), *Fritillaria affinis* (26), *Cornus nuttallii* (25), *Gaultheria humifusa* (25) and *Polemonium viscosum* (25). Our seed was in most demand from Germany (74 requests), United Kingdom (58), France (37), U.S.A. (23), Japan (15), Czech Republic (15), Poland (13), Estonia (13), Belgium (11) and South Africa (10). The Index Seminum for 2001 was distributed in December to 295 institutions and individuals in 45 countries and contains 79 taxa in 33 families. We anticipate that during 2001-02 we will receive over 250 Index Semina from 43 countries.

I thank the members of the Friends of the Garden for their many hours of invaluable and expert work collecting and cleaning seeds and dispatching orders.

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