Royal Botanic Cardens

Become a Patron of Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and help protect the natural world for generations to come

Welcome from our Chair of Patrons

Kew is a very special organisation and our Patrons are close to its heart



The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew is an inspirational organisation. Kew's strength lies in the multi-faceted nature of its work and the extraordinary beauty of Kew Gardens is the obvious symbol of this.

The team at Kew complete a huge range of work in the fields of science and research. From the vital conservation efforts of the Millenium Seed Bank at our sister site Wakehurst, to an array of collaborations in more than 100 countries around the world. Kew is also home to a world-class collection of botanical art and a globally important catalogue of archives.

Given the right resources, Kew can help the world tackle the biodiversity and climate crisis, educate new audiences on the value of nature, and provide a fun and unique experience to its millions of visitors.

Kew's Patrons are members of a tight knit global community of like-minded people who help to further Kew's mission. My wife Kate and I became Patrons because we wanted to contribute to the important work being done at Kew. We have been inspired by Kew's many experts, their enthusiasm, and their contributions to so many areas, including botany, horticulture, and science.

For those considering becoming a Patron, I would be delighted to welcome you to our fantastic community, supporting the team at Kew to safeguard the future of our planet for future generations.

W Hobbionse

Will Hobhouse





As a Patron, you're helping us foster a deep and lasting relationship with the natural world for generations to come, and to build a greener, more sustainable future for all.





William Hooker Patron – £1.200

(£200 benefit; £1,000 voluntary donation annually)

- Complimentary entry to Kew Gardens and Wakehurst.
- Regular e-newsletters and *Kew* magazine, sent three times a year.
- A programme of exclusive behind-thescenes tours for you and a guest.
- A programme of online webinars and talks from Kew experts and international partners.
- An invitation to the *Christmas at Kew* preview night for you and three guests.

Queen Charlotte Patron – £2,500

(£400 benefit; £2,100 voluntary donation annually)

All of the previously listed benefits and

- An invitation to the annual Director's Garden Party for you and a guest.
- An invitation to online and in-person private views at the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art for you and a guest.

Joseph Banks Patron – £5,000

(£675 benefit; £4,325 voluntary donation annually)

All of the previously listed benefits and

- An invitation to the Patrons' Annual Dinner at Kew Gardens for you and a guest.
- The opportunity to join international trips to explore Kew's projects overseas (at additional cost).

Princess Augusta Patron – £10,000

(£850 benefit; £9,150 voluntary donation annually)

All of the previously listed benefits and

- A private tour of Kew or Wakehurst for you and your guests.
- An invitation to a private view of Kew's annual orchid festival for you and a guest.
- A signed Kew book.



Protecting the planet

RBG Kew has been at the forefront of cataloguing, protecting and researching plant life on this planet for over 260 years. Our mission is to protect global plant and fungal biodiversity for the benefit of our planet and for the benefit of humanity.

As one of the world's leading plant science organisations, our gardens hold the largest and most diverse botanical and mycological collections in the world, with over 8.5 million items. Many of the planet's finest scientific and horticultural minds are proud to be part of our considerable history and ground-breaking research community. Together with our advocates and supporters, we're dedicated to leveraging these unparalleled resources and securing a future for all life on Earth.

Working internationally, our experts, in collaboration with over 400 institutions and across more than 100 countries worldwide, are looking at how plants and fungi might offer solutions to these challenges, by cleaning the air we breathe, providing the food we eat and medicines we need, harnessing the energy we use, and manufacturing the clothes we wear and the materials we work with.

Through our first-class botanic and horticultural research, irreplaceable herbarium collections and the world's most diverse living collections of plants and fungi – including many unique, rare and threatened species, some of which are extinct in the wild – we are discovering long-term solutions to protect and restore natural habitats.

All our lives depend on plants. Our future is botanic.

Kew's impact

Diversifying food crops in Madagascar

Madagascar is one of the most biodiverse countries on the planet, and home to Kew's third research site, where more than 60 staff work to protect Madagascar's unique flora.

There are at least 45 species of Madagascan native yam. They form a dietary starch resource, are harvested from forest habitats, and range from seasonal staples in specific regions to famine foods.

Many yam species are threatened by over-harvesting and habitat loss, but a team from Kew – working with partners from the UK and in Madagascar – has enabled local communities to increase their production of the winged yam (*Dioscorea alata*). Increased cultivation of the winged yam, which was originally introduced to Madagascar from Asia, has demonstrated its potential to improve lives and livelihoods and to reduce wild yam harvesting if it's grown more extensively.

The team has provided assistance to local growers, including giving advice on seed tuber collection for community cultivation and seed collection for banking, plantation nursery development techniques, cultivation and storage – as well as running an outreach and awareness campaign.

This programme builds upon previous projects by Kew scientists that have scaled up the cultivation and sustainable harvesting of yams in Madagascar, leading to improved food security, nutrition and livelihoods and the conservation of species. Its outputs continue to be used in Kew's and our partners' projects that aim to protect biodiversity and improve protected area management, as well as in agricultural interventions within conservation and development projects.





Planning and planting for the future

There are around 11,000 trees across the 320-acre site at Kew Gardens, many of which are as old as the Gardens themselves, and some of which cannot be found anywhere else in Britain.

Unfortunately, a changing climate poses significant risks to such arboreal diversity, and this was highlighted during the heatwave of 2022, which led to the loss of 400 trees at Kew.

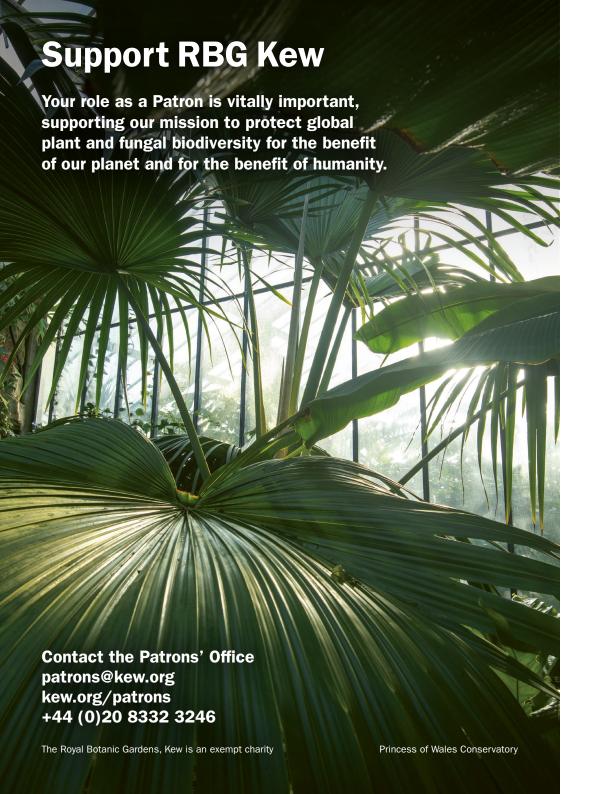
To help meet the challenge posed by a changing climate and ensure that Kew adapts appropriately, horticulturists at Kew have released the first landscape

succession plan created by a botanic garden in the UK: *Planting for the Future:* Kew's Landscape Succession Plan.

The report draws on novel climate models that combine specific projections for west London and weather station records from Kew Gardens with global tree data and details of Kew's existing plant collections, alongside empirical testing.

As part of this plan, Kew horticulturists have determined the species we need to start planting nationally now, to protect UK landscapes for future generations.

Kew hopes the *Landscape Succession Plan* will act as a blueprint for urban spaces, botanic, public and private gardens, and calls on the horticulture industry as well as urban planners to recognise concerns around an exclusive focus on native species.











This guarantee should be detached and retained by the Payer –



The Direct Debit Guarantee

- This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit, by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.
- · If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew asks you to.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society.
 Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

