

Press Pack – Persephone

Persephone is Plant Heritage's online horticultural database developed for recording plants in collections.

Persephone is an easy to use, yet powerful and flexible plant records system, designed to meet the needs of a diverse range of plant collections. Initially set up to help National Plant Collection holders record their information and research, the online database has now grown to allow anyone to record data about any plant, in any garden, anywhere.



Information about a plant is important as the plant itself. From pictures, history, taxonomic information, research and geolocations, all help tell the story of a plant and keeping this knowledge together, securely and consistently, is vital for plant conservation.

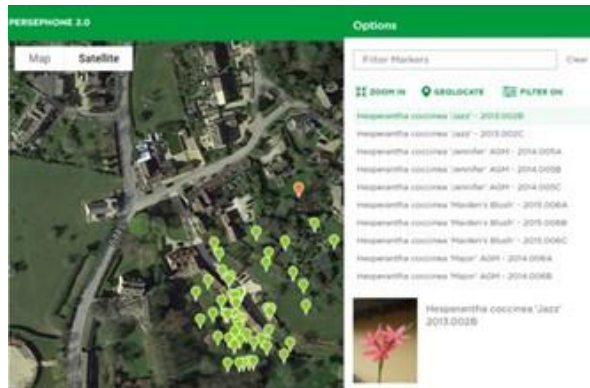
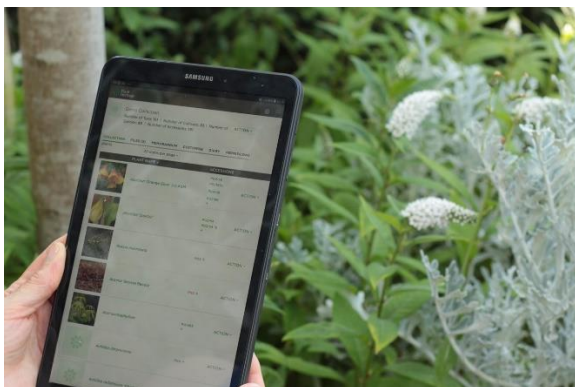
Persephone 2.0, launched in March 2022, builds on nine years' experience of using Persephone, which was originally written by then postgraduate computer science student Toby Ross, working on a shoestring budget. Further refined by use and feedback from hundreds of National Collection holders, the current system offers a user-friendly experience without sacrificing technical capabilities.

Persephone was awarded the UK IT industry's charity project of the year for 2023, given to the 'most outstanding project in the charitable sector...if it uses IT to benefit the organisation or its clients'. The judges commented that 'Persephone was delivered through a small number of talented volunteers & staff to create a national asset for very small investment without which much of our rich horticultural heritage could be lost. It demonstrated excellence from idea to adoption.'

Persephone is free to use for recording National Plant Collections and is now available to all via a subscription service. For large/open gardens, see our [subscription site](#). Plant Heritage members can record up to 500 plants in their private garden - [more details here](#).

“Persephone is easily accessible and the flexibility is really important for us working with multiple collections out in the field. It has made a major difference to me and my collections and has cut down on time, better spent on cultivating rare plants.”

Barry Clarke, botanist and plant records officer, Sir Harold Hillier Gardens



Images: *Persephone used in the field to record garden plants and sample map of geolocated plants*

© Plant Heritage

Plant Heritage, First Floor Offices, Stone Pine, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QD | www.plantheritage.org.uk | collections@plantheritage.org.uk