



International Society for Horticultural Science
Commission Plant Genetic Resources
Newsletter Issue 1

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Searching for Officers

Greetings to the members of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and welcome to our first newsletter! We had a great success with the 2nd International Symposium on Plant Genetic Resources which happened in Seoul Korea in 2006, with publication of the two volume set of Acta Horticulturae 760 in 2007. We are looking forward to future symposia.

Dr. David Tay, who was the Working Group Chair for Ornamental Genetic Resources, served us well as the editor for the Ornamentals section of the 2nd International Symposium on Plant Genetic Resources. His new assignment has taken him out of Ornamentals research so the working group chair position has become vacant. Should anyone have someone to nominate for this position, please contact me Kim.Hummer@ars.usda.gov.



Upcoming Symposia

Workgroup: Underutilized Plant Genetic Resources

March 3-7, 2008, Arusha, Tanzania:

International Symposium on Underutilized Plants

for Food, Nutrition, Income and Sustainable Development. Info: Dr. Hannah

Jaenicke, Director, International Centre for Underutilised Crops, PO Box 2075,

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Research Activities

ISHS MOU with Global Crop Diversity Trust

The expert committee on strawberry has produced a Global Conservation Strategy for *Fragaria* (Strawberry). This 85 page report was submitted to and approved by the Global Crop Diversity Trust in January 2008. The Trust will be making it accessible through their website at

<http://www.croptrust.org/main/strategies.php?itemid=38> and it will be published as a *Scripta Horticulturae* by ISHS.



Several other horticultural crops are listed in the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources. It is hoped that other ISHS crop experts can work with the Global Crop Diversity Trust and develop conservation strategies to increase access to plant genetic resources throughout the world. Horticultural crop strategies have been developed for potatoes, bananas, and now strawberries.

Svalbard Global Genebank

A global genebank, the Arctic Seed Vault (image to right), has been established at Svalbard, Norway, with a grant from the Global Crop Diversity Trust. The seed vault has a capacity of 4.5 million seed samples, equivalent to about 2 billion seeds. Samples eligible for conservation at Svalbard must already be housed in two conventional long-term genebanks elsewhere, in keeping with current international standards. Website: <http://www.croptrust.org/main/arctic.php?itemid=211>



Many genebanks from around the world are sending back-up seedlots to Svalbard. In December 2007, the USDA ARS National Clonal Germplasm Repository (NCGR) sent 64 strawberry (*Fragaria*) seedlots to be stored. In the photo at the left, Bruce Bartlett, Plant Distribution Manager, NCGR, ships off a package containing seeds from the Corvallis Genebank, bound for back-up storage in the Svalbard Arctic Seed Vault.

