



OLD CULTIVARS SPREAD ANEW

Cultivars that have been tracked through Pom's inventory and are preserved in the national gene bank are sold under the trademark Grönt kulturarv® (Green Heritage). The assortment consists of fruit, berries, vegetables and ornamentals cultivated in Sweden before 1940, 1950 or 1960, depending on the plant species, with a well-documented history. The trademark also includes cultivars bred in Sweden, regardless of age, and material spontaneously arisen in Sweden and assessed to be worth preserving. The first Grönt kulturarv® cultivars were made available on the market in spring 2013. Today, there are about 90 different cultivars on sale, with new ones added every year. They are grown by Swedish nurseries and market gardens and available for purchase in well-stocked garden centres.



GRÖNT KULTURARV

PUBLICATIONS



Want to learn more about the plants in the Swedish National Gene Bank? Our books describe the plants, cultivar by cultivar, and the knowledge about them acquired in the context of our appeal to the public and inventory-taking. Since the gene bank's assignment is not only to preserve plant materials, but also to document the plants' cultural history, the books are an important source of knowledge about our green heritage. They describe what previous generations cultivated, how and why. More books are on the way. Order them on our website or in a book shop. So far, the books are only available in Swedish.



The Swedish National Gene Bank for Vegetatively Propagated Horticultural Crops



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CULTIVARS IN THE GENE BANK

The Swedish National Gene Bank contains more than 2300 older cultivars of fruit, berries, vegetables and ornamental plants. The collections include local Swedish cultivars, cultivars developed by Swedish plant breeders and foreign cultivars with a long cultivation history in Sweden.



VEGETABLES: This includes considerable collections of hops, rhubarb, onion and horse radish, but also smaller collections of medicinal plants such as rose root, southernwood and masterwort.



FRUIT AND BERRIES: Apples and pears dominate the fruit collection, which also includes plums and cherries. Among the berries, strawberries and currants dominate.



POTTED PLANTS: The largest group of potted plants includes geraniums and leaf cacti. In total, the gene bank contains potted plants from about one hundred different species.



ROSES: Among the roses, there are bedding roses, old garden shrub roses, climbers and ramblers. A majority of the cultivars in the gene bank are old-fashioned once-flowering shrub roses.



PERENNIALS: The gene bank has over 70 different genera of perennials. Peonies, phloxes, irises, asters and other hardy perennials traditionally used in herbaceous borders make up a considerable part of the collection.



BULBS AND CORMS: The largest group in the gene bank consists of narcissi, followed by tulips, dahlias and lilies. It also contains colchicum, crocuses and montbretia.



TREES AND BUSHES: This group contains a unique collection of poplars and ornamental trees from Swedish parks and churchyards from the turn of the century. Among the ornamental bushes, there are for example lilacs and deutzias.

THE SWEDISH NATIONAL GENE BANK

In June 2016, the Swedish National Gene Bank for Vegetatively Propagated Horticultural Crops was inaugurated. The gene bank contains a unique collection of older horticultural cultivars from all over the country. It is the result of inventories carried out over several years under the Programme for Diversity of Cultivated Plants (Pom). Between 2002 and 2011, Pom issued an appeal to the public for older fruit, berries as well as vegetables and ornamental plants. After collection and trial cultivation, the most interesting specimens were selected to be preserved in the gene bank together with information about their cultivation and cultural history. The duty of the gene bank is to preserve, document, distribute and research the plants. The gene bank is placed at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and acts as a field gene bank; the material is preserved as living plants. In addition to the premises on SLU's Alnarp Campus, the gene bank also consists of protected berry cultivations and local clonal archives around the country. The gene bank is funded by the government.

LOCAL CLONAL ARCHIVES

A local clonal archive can be for example a botanical garden, an open-air museum or a gardening school. The local clonal archives preserve plants that act as a backup to the plant material in Alnarp. The archives also have the important task of displaying and providing information about the cultivars collected in each region. Contact an individual clonal archive for information on opening hours and accessibility.

