

**Iowa State University Library
Collection Development Policy Statement
HORTICULTURE**

I. General Purpose

The horticulture library collection provides information access and material support for the curriculum, teaching, and ongoing research of the students and faculty in the discipline of horticulture. This support includes the programs surrounding many basic and applied aspects of horticulture, as well as the underlying plant sciences. The collection also supports research projects, research facilities, and several interdepartmental plant science programs.

II. History

The legislative act that chartered Iowa Agricultural College and Model Farm in 1858 specified that horticulture should be one of the twenty subjects taught. The first horticulture classes were taught beginning October 21, 1869, with Dr. Norton S. Townsend as professor of agriculture and horticulture, A.S. Welch as lecturer of landscape gardening, and Charles Bessey as a teacher of horticulture and botany. In 1877, Horticulture became the first agricultural discipline to be organized as a separate department, and the first M.S. degree in Horticulture was also awarded that same year. The B.S. degree in Horticulture was approved in 1904. In 1913, Horticulture was one of eight departments approved to offer the Ph.D. degree.

The original emphasis of the horticulture program was on growing fruits and vegetables, but interest has increased to include areas such as growing plants for personal pleasure, the appreciation for the living environment, and the production of more nutritious foods. The horticulture industry has thrived, thus escalating the need for quality teaching, research, service, and facilities supportive of that demand.

III. Iowa State University Program

The Department of Horticulture provides a curriculum for students interested in the many basic and applied aspects of horticulture, including landscape horticulture, greenhouse production and management, fruit and vegetable production and management, nursery management, public garden management and administration, planting design and installation, turfgrass science and management, horticulture science, horticultural communications, and public education.

The Department of Horticulture offers the Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in horticulture. The department also participates in interdepartmental majors such as Plant Physiology; Genetics; and Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology (MCDB).

The department cooperates in interdepartmental programs in the allied plant science

disciplines, and supports several teaching and research components, including its greenhouse facilities. Examples include the Horticulture Research Station; the North Central Regional Plant Introduction Station; the Extension Service, particularly relating to Consumer/Commodity Horticulture; the department's Hortline; its Virtual Vegetable Center; and the Reiman Gardens.

IV. Subject Boundaries

Because of the rank of ISU's College of Agriculture and its land-grant mission, and the Department of Horticulture's consistent top-5 ranking among major research universities, collection support is comprehensive.

Areas of teaching and current research among the Horticulture faculty center around eight curriculum options: Horticulture Science, Turfgrass Management, Nursery Management, Greenhouse Crops, Environmental Horticulture, Fruit/Vegetable Production, Horticultural Communications, and Public Garden Management/Administration.

V. General Collection Guidelines

A. Linguistic: Most of the material selected is in English; however, selections from other languages are not excluded. Worldwide gifts and exchanges are received, supporting the program, visiting scholars, and our international students.

B. Geographical Areas: Iowa and the United States are the natural scope of coverage; however, Iowa State University's land-grant mission and ranking extends its International Agriculture programs worldwide.

C. Types of Materials Collected: Materials selected include serials (including full-text e-journals), monographs, conference proceedings, government publications in all forms (including technical reports, CDs, etc.), traditional reference sources (e.g., handbooks, encyclopedias, and indexes), electronic databases, and Web resources significant to the program. Some textbooks are procured selectively.

D. Formats of Materials Collected: The library generally selects materials supportive of the program in all the traditional forms. As mentioned above, more emphasis is now placed upon electronically networked resources (see Section V.C).

VI. Specific Collection Guidelines

Collection support is primarily within the SB areas in the LC classification: other collection areas where plant science information is found will support horticulture collection.

VII. Detailed Subject Areas

Iowa State library has a strong supportive collection in Horticulture, which impacts the other allied fields of Agronomy, Botany, Forestry, and Plant Pathology. Materials are

procured concerning the systematic, taxonomy, and nomenclature of most horticultural crops.

The faculty and professional staff in Horticulture are involved in teaching, research, and extension activities relative to floriculture, fruits, greenhouse and nursery enterprises, landscape development and management, turfgrass, and vegetable industries. There are programs in the production, harvesting, storage, postharvest handling, and marketing of a great diversity of products. The basic disciplines involved are plant identification, ecological-physiological relationships, controlled plant environments, environmental stress physiology, molecular biology, tissue culture, and other biotechnological applications.

VIII. Other Resources Available

The ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, with its excellent network, has access to worldwide literature and collections through the following groups: the land-grant universities in the Midwest and throughout the nation; the National Agricultural Library, Washington DC; the Linda Hall Library on the campus of the University of Missouri–Kansas City; and agriculture-based university libraries around the world, including information available via OCLC’s WorldCat.

IX. Cross-Reference to Collection Policies

Primary overlapping subject areas include Agronomy, Botany, Forestry, and Plant Pathology. Secondary areas of subject overlap include Ecology, Environment, Entomology, Genetics, and Water.

X. LC Class(es)

Primary: SB

Secondary: QH, QK, S

XI. Subject Specialist’s Name

Pali U. Kuruppu

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