



'Alexandru Ioan Cuza'
University of Iași

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'Anastase Fătu' Botanical Garden of Iași
România, Iași, 770487, 7-9, Dumbrava Roșie Str.
Tel./Fax: ++40 232 201 385
<http://www.botanica.uaic.ro>
E-mail: gbot.is@uaic.ro



'Anastase Fătu'
Botanical Garden of Iași

History

The Botanical Garden of Iași has been founded in 1856 and it bears the name of its founder, the famous doctor and naturalist Anastase Fătu. It is the first Romanian botanical garden belonging to an university and, in the same time, the biggest in the country, unique for the number of species and for their special preservation.

Mission

The Botanical Garden from Iași plays an important role in the society, contributing by research, education and popularization to plants diversity conservation. In this direction it fulfils the next functions:

- ✓ **instruction and education** – because it is a traditional center in the formation of the taxonomists and in education for pupils, students and those who love the plants;
- ✓ **scientific research** – because it coordinates *ex situ* conservation projects by germplasm bank organization, by living collections development, repopulation, mapping and monitoring the rare and threatened plants species;
- ✓ **cultural values promotion** – by public awareness and expert advice, herbarium enrichment and organization of exhibitions with flowers, fruits and seeds.

The Botanical Garden nowadays

Its current location, on Copou Hill, was set in 1965. It has now a surface of 80 hectares and is organized in 10 sections: *Systematical* (4.5 hectares), *Phytogeographical* (12.4 hectares), *Greenhouses Complex* (4500 m²), *Romanian Flora and Vegetation* (20 hectares), *Moldavian Sylvo-steppe* (13.2 hectares), *Biological* (5.2 hectares), *Useful Plants* (1.1 hectares), *Dendrological* (17.9 hectares), *Ornamental* (4 hectares) and *Rosarium* (1.7 hectares).

In the Botanical Garden's representative collections there are about 7000 vegetal taxa, grown in the green houses and outside. The plants come from different bio-geographical areas.

The collections of decorative species are those that make the Botanical garden a remarkable one:

- ✓ the richest roses collection in the country, that was included since 1986 in The World Federation of Rose Societies (about 600 taxa);
- ✓ a special collection of chrysanthemums (250 taxa) and large simple chrysanthemums (80 taxa);
- ✓ a collection of azaleas (30 taxa) and camellias (12 taxa);
- ✓ a collection of succulents (about 600 taxa);
- ✓ a valuable collection of bonsai trees.

Since 1991 a special place is held by the section for blind persons. There are flowers with powerful scents or with peculiar leaves. There are also present labels in *Braille alphabet*.

Since 1975 exhibitions presenting taxa from the botanical garden's collections are being organized: azaleas, camellias, peperomias, begonias, fittonias, maranthas, crotons, euphorbias, cactuses in January-March and chrysanthemums, cabbages, pumpkins, decorative peppers and numerous samples of fruits and seeds collected from species from all the continents in September-November.

Projects and collaboration

Until now, the conservation function is the most accentuated. The Botanical Garden from Iasi is involved in the *ex situ* conservation of 85 species included in the Red Book of the vascular plants from Romania and in the International Conventions.

It is also in partnership with some *in situ* conservation programs developed for some plants species from Carpathian Mountains and Danube Delta.

The Botanical Garden co-operates with partners from Romania and abroad. As a founding member of the *Romanian Botanical Gardens Association* (since 2000), offered to the institution a great perspective, especially with similar institutions from Europe. Since 2009 it is a member of the *International Plant Exchange Network*.



The winter is the season of azaleas and camellias in Iași



Camellia – the simbol of grace and refinement



The spring light and colours



Chrysanthemum – The Queen of the fall



The green heart of the nature in the *Chrysanthemums Exhibition* dedicated to the *Celebration of 150 Years from University foundation*



Cucurbitaceous collection dedicated to the *International Year of Biodiversity*



Imperatrice Farah one of the most appreciated varieties from the Rosarium



The bonsai that gives peace to the spirit



Paeonia tenuifolia protected species cultivated to repopulate the natural habitats



Ex situ conserved species from Danube Delta



The Friends of the Botanical Garden



Theatre between flowers