

Vilnius University Botanic Garden



Vilnius University Botanical Garden (VUBG) was founded in 1781 by Professor Jean-Emmanuel Gilibert (1741-1814) in the courtyard of the Medical College, now 22 Pilies Street. The Garden occupied an area of about 200 sq. m and contained about 500 species of plants grown outdoors and in a small greenhouse.

Funds were raised by the famous naturalist and companion of James Cook on his second voyage, Johann Georg

Adam Forster (1754-1794), who contributed a lot to the acquisition of the tract of land in Sereikiškės at the foot of the Castle Hill. In 1799 The Botanical Garden was moved to a new site with an area several times larger than its previous location. For 25 years the Garden was headed by Professor Stanislaw Bonifacy Jundzill (1761-1847). Under his management by 1824 the collections of the Garden contained as many as 6,565 taxa.

Vilnius University was closed down by the administration of the Russian Tsar in 1832 following the Uprising of the previous year. The Botanical Garden was kept open for ten more years until 1842 when it was shut down completely. The introduced plants perished without proper maintenance and the Botanical Garden soon turned into a park.



The Botanical Garden was successfully re-established in 1919 in the new location of the Vingis Estate, located in the valley of the Neris River in the western part of Vilnius. Previously known as the Department of Plant Systematics and

Geography, in 2011 Garden in Vingis was renamed the Vingis Department. Today it houses as many as 4,600 different plant species and cultivars in greenhouses and outdoors.



In 1974, just before the 400th anniversary of Vilnius University, the expanding Botanical Garden was moved to a new location in the village of Kairėnai, to a site of the previous wealthy Estate, located in the north-east of Vilnius. VU Botanical Garden in Kairėnai and Vingis occupies a total of 199 hectares (about 2 sq. km).

Main research areas:

- study of ornamental herbaceous and ligneous plants and their introduction
- selection and introduction of small fruit plants
- mutagenicity and genetic instability of plants (barley, bean), genetic collections
- micropropagation in vitro

Living plant collections:

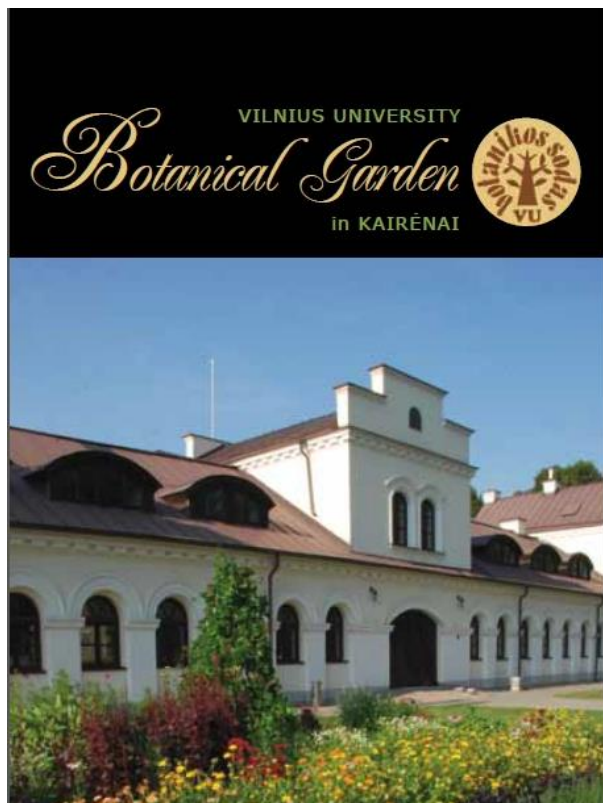
- Group of Dendrology (woody species) 2,500 taxa,
- Group of Floriculture (herbaceous ornamental plants) 3,200 taxa,
- Group of Pomology (fruit plants) 750 taxa,
- Group of Plant Genetics 500 taxa,
- Vingis Department 3,000 taxa,
- Laboratory of Plant Physiology and Biochemistry (in vitro) 100 taxa.

Geography:

- Garden area 199 ha (about 2 sq. km)
- Latitude 54° 41', longitude 25° 14', north east of Vilnius City
- Altitude 130 - 180 m above sea level

Climate:

- Average maximum temperature (August) +21.2°C
- Absolute maximum temperature +35.4°C
- Average minimum temperature (January) -7.2°C
- Absolute minimum temperature -37.2°C



Contacts

Address: Kairėnų 43, LT - 10239 Vilnius-40, Lithuania

Tel. +370-5 2193133

Fax: +370-5 2317933

Information centre +370-5 2193139

E-mail: hbu@bs.vu.lt