



HERBARIUM

An herbarium is a collection of dried plant specimens mounted on sheets of paper, identified by experts and labelled with their proper scientific names, together with other information (where they were collected, how they grew, etc.) and systematically arranged for reference.

The Herbarium of the University of Bologna includes more than 130,000 specimens from all over the world that represent the entire vegetable kingdom, from algae to flowering plants, and is a rich trove of historical collections, with the oldest dating back to the first half of the 16th Century.

Indeed, ever since the sixteenth century, the University of Bologna was one of the main centres of botanical knowledge, from Luca Ghini (1490-1556), the first to hold the chair of Botany, to Emilio Chiovenda (1871-1941), a global authority on the flora of East Africa.

The Herbarium is open to *bona fide* visitors with scientific reasons to study the collections.



EXPLORE THE GARDEN WITH QR CODES



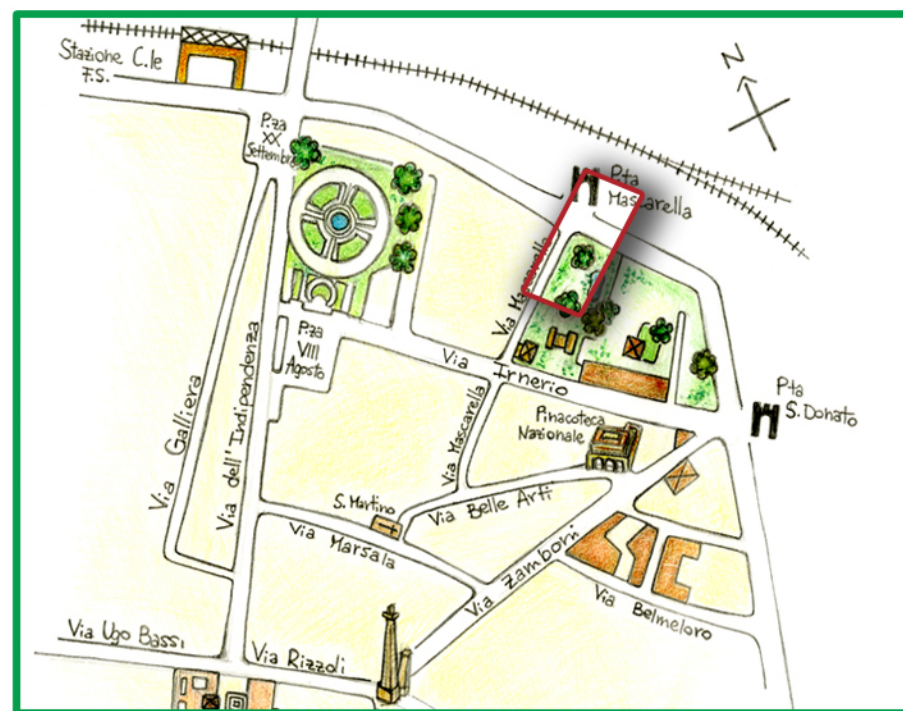
www.sma.unibo.it
ortobotanicobologna.wordpress.com



www.facebook.com/ortoerbario.museiunibo

Orto Botanico ed Erbario, via Irnerio, 42 - 40126 Bologna
www.sma.unibo.it/ortoerbario

The Botanic Garden has just introduced a new way to experience its treasures: QR code trials that offer visitors an interactive way of discovering the secrets of the different areas. You can access a wealth of information, photographs, drawings and maps of the Garden while you're on site by using a QR (Quick Response) code reader on your mobile device.



Botanic Garden Contacts

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Admission to the Garden is free



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA
SISTEMA MUSEALE DI ATENEO



ORTO BOTANICO ED ERBARIO

BOTANIC GARDEN AND HERBARIUM



Located in via Irnerio 42, in the heart of the University area, the Botanic Garden and the Herbarium of Bologna University are amongst the oldest in Europe.

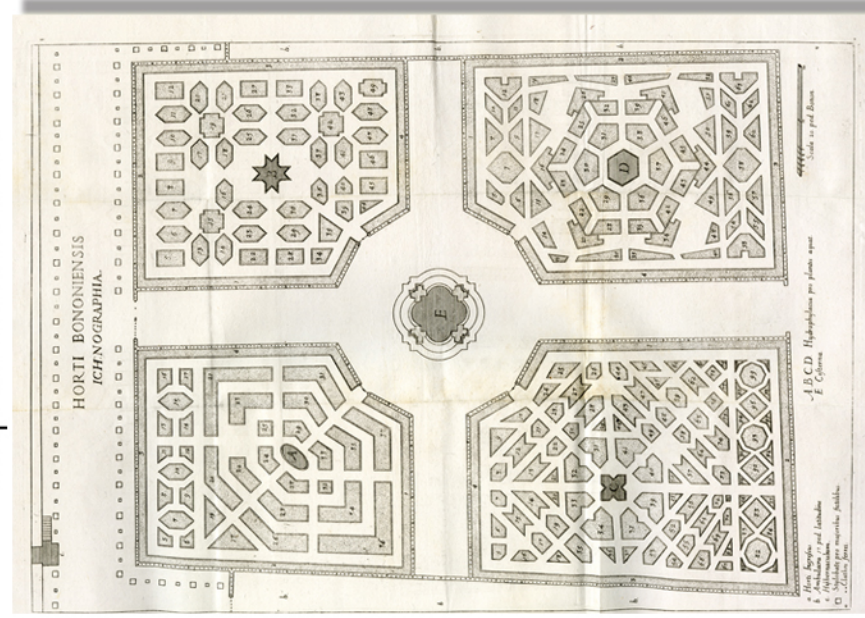
The Botanic Garden in total covers 2 hectares and is bounded to the north by the old city walls and to the south by via Irnerio. There are approximately 5,000 different plants – local and exotic - growing here, including thematic collections, reconstruction of natural habitats, two greenhouses with tropical and succulent plants and a small greenhouse with a collection of carnivorous plants. Collections of dried plants, dating from the 16th century onward, are preserved at the Herbarium.



ORTO BOTANICO ED ERBARIO - SISTEMA MUSEALE DI ATENEO - VIA IRNERIO 42 BOLOGNA



map of the Garden



map of the first Botanic Garden

Visiting the Garden

The main elements underlying the present structure of the Bologna Botanic Garden are single high value collections and the reconstruction of natural habitats in which plant species are associated as they would be in nature.

1 - The Front Garden

This area, located in front of the main building just beyond the entrance gate on via Irnerio, includes woody plants widely cultivated in European Botanical Gardens. Notably there are gymnosperms belonging to the genus *Araucaria*, *Cephalotaxus*, *Ginkgo*, *Metasequoia*. In addition, there are shrubs and herbaceous plants with beautiful and exuberant blossoms.

2 - The Back Garden

The largest portion of the garden – which extends behind the buildings of the Biology Department to the old city walls – is dedicated to thematic collections and to the reconstruction of natural habitats.

3, 4 - Greenhouses

Within the garden there are two greenhouses open to the public. The first is characterised by a collection of tropical plants; amongst them are well-known food plants (Tamarind, Pepper, Cocoa, Ginger, etc.), species of economic importance, fern, bromeliads and epiphyte orchids. The second greenhouse contains a rich collection of succulent plants. Another small greenhouse hosts a collection of carnivorous plants.

5 - Medicinal Plants

This area is dedicated to medicinal plants, once known as 'simples', or, more precisely, "simple principles" (in which the drugs were directly extracted from the plants) and from which derives the denomination 'Garden of the Simples'; the section replicates Bologna's first Botanic Garden created by Ulisse Aldrovandi in 1568.

6, 7 - Submerged Forest of the Plains of the River Po and Pond

This section includes a pond with typical vegetation and a reconstruction of a wetland area representing the submerged forest typical of the plains of the River Po.

8 - Rock Garden

The small Rock Garden is divided into 3 sections, providing a variety of habitats for acidophilous, calciophilous and gypsophilous plants, the peculiar vegetation of the "Gessi bolognesi", one of the largest and most spectacular networks of gypsum caves in Europe.

9 - City Walls

This section is located on the northern side of the garden. Bordered by the old town walls, the area contains many deciduous woody plants, almost all native and representative of the flora of the Apennines around Bologna. The eastern side contains a collection of shrubs and evergreen trees typical of the Mediterranean region.

