LIVING COLLECTIONS  
PLANT RECORDS SYSTEM CHART

5. =Catalog Stage

3. =Accession Stage

**Document File**

Field Documents

Receipts

Correspondence

Agreements

Evaluations

Photographs

4. =Registration Stage

2. =Entry Stage

1. =Pre-entry Stage

Adapted from: D. A. Roberts, *Planning the Documentation of Museum Collections* (Duxford, Cambridge: Museum Documentation Association, 1985).

LIVING COLLECTIONS  
PLANT RECORDS WORKFLOW

COLLECTIONS  
CATEGORIES OF CORE COLLECTIONS

LIVING COLLECTIONS  
CATEGORIES OF CORE COLLECTIONS

1. **Horticultural Criteria**

* Adapted to or tolerant of central Virginia growing conditions
* Adapted to or tolerant of anticipated future growing conditions in light of climate change
* Be a new and desirable cultivar or nativar
* Possess some cultural resonance (i.e., evoke stories and anecdotes, demonstrate historical use/value, be of cultural significance, etc.)
* Have an outstanding desirable characteristic, i.e. hardiness, pest or disease resistance, drought tolerance, etc.
* Demonstrate unique qualities of flowering, form, and fruiting, etc. and demonstrate overall superior landscape effect
* Possess superior visual appeal in color, texture or contrast within a planting

1. **Ecosystem Services Criteria**

* Provide provisioning services for animals via seeds, nectar, nest-building materials, etc.
* Serve as animal habitats for diverse wildlife
* Improve soil structure, stabilization, biota, etc.
* Compete with invasive plants to improve or restore the ecological function of an area
* Provide stormwater services

1. **Conservatory Criteria**

* Be adaptable to an interior growing environment including pest resistance and tolerance to varied light levels and temperatures in the Conservatory
* Meet forcing requirements for timing and reliability
* Support design intent of a thematic display, permanent collections and/or rotational plantings
* Possess long lasting display qualities
* Provide interest via color, foliage, flowers, fruit or fragrance
* Offer unique flowers not available to the consumer
* Support an educational goal
* Be non-hardy to the area or is it forced to bloom out of season for display purposes

1. **Educational Criteria**

* Demonstrate interdependence of plants, people, and the environment
* Have existing or potential educational value
* Showcase or enhance a Garden exhibition
* Support existing or future educational programs
* Display rare or endangered species for educational purposes

1. **Collaborative Criteria**

* Serve a test and evaluation function for inter-institutional collaborations or partnerships
* Contribute to research or plant trials
* Further a germplasm curatorial initiative or program