



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **CENTER FOR PLANT CONSERVATION ADDS SIX TEXAS PLANTS TO NATIONAL COLLECTION OF ENDANGERED PLANTS**

#### *Collection protects America's imperiled plants from extinction*

ST. LOUIS, Mo., March 4, 2003 – The Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) decided to add six imperiled Texas plants to the National Collection of Endangered Plants.

The following plants have been added to the Collection:

- Texas meadow-rue, *Thalictrum texanum*
- Scarlet catchfly, *Silene subciliata*
- Glen rose yucca, *Yucca necopina*
- Texas screwstem, *Bartonia texana*
- Bog coneflower, *Rudbeckia scabrifolia*
- Long-sepaled false dragon-head, *Physostegia longisepala*

“An important conservation resource, the Collection is a back up in case a species becomes extinct or no longer reproduces in the wild,” said Kathryn L. Kennedy, Ph.D., president and executive director of the Center. “The Collection, managed by CPC, keeps our restoration options open for hundreds of imperiled species nationwide. For each species, CPC scientists and our partners do critical research on storage, germination requirements, and the plants’ growth and life cycle to prepare appropriate material for restoration work.”

Currently, this living collection contains seeds and cuttings for more than 600 of the country’s most imperiled native plants.

Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens, a CPC participating institution, will be the custodian for these species. Mercer has maintained plants and seed of both Texas meadow-rue and scarlet catchfly since 1994. Mercer will be banking seeds from all six species in 2003.

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Scientists still know very little about imperiled plants. Plants and their habitats are being destroyed faster than scientists can protect and study them.

When people lose plants, they lose a part of their natural heritage, valuable scientific treasures and the potential gifts these plants might offer.

The Center for Plant Conservation is dedicated solely to preventing the extinction of America's imperiled, native flora. The center is a network of more than 30 of America's leading botanical institutions. By conducting conservation programs in horticulture, research, plant restoration, awareness and information exchange, the center's network is striving to save America's rarest plants from being lost forever. For more information about the Center for Plant Conservation, please visit the Web site at [www.centerforplantconservation.org](http://www.centerforplantconservation.org).

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