

**UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA BOTANICAL GARDEN
PLANT INTRODUCTION SCHEME**

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(See Western Region, page 121)

**THE COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION OF NATIONAL PLANT
COLLECTIONS**

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Ardingly, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH17 6TN*

In order that I may relate my subject matter to a personal level of experience I have restricted this paper to the national plant collections I know best — namely those of The Royal Botanic Gardens of Kew and Wakehurst Place.

It would be tempting also to give wide attention to the many other national collections which our islands hold, such as the many National Trust properties, the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, plus its three annex gardens and the various arboreta managed by the Forestry Commission (Westonbirt, Bedgebury, etc.)

The mother station, Kew Gardens, by the banks of the Thames at Richmond near London is world renowned, covers 300 acres and has a long and fascinating history. Much of that history is related directly to the subject of commercial exploitation of plants.

Kew's annex garden (Wakehurst Place, Ardingly, Sussex) is almost 500 acres in extent, and within its 14 mile boundary it nurses a very rich and varied collection of temperate plants with accent on species from Asia and the southern hemisphere. It also includes a 125 acre botanical reserve for the conservation of the flora of the Weald, and a well-established Seed Bank.