

Plants for Food



Safeguarding Our Food Supply
Sustaining populations of wild relatives of our food plants assures the maintenance of critical biological diversity. When faced with climate change, emerging diseases, and other challenges to food production, scientists will look for unique adaptations within these wild relatives. The IUCN Crop Wild Relatives Specialist Group collects data on these wild relatives of food plants to ensure that their populations receive protection if needed.

Photo: Bolivians holding cassava. Photo credit: © Museo de Historia Natural Noel Kempf Mercado - U.A.G.E.M. Santa Cruz, Jerónimo Muñoz Mendoza

www.iucn.org

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™

Cultivated apricot fruit
Did you know that the wild relative of the apricot was classified as Endangered on the 2007 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species? The major threat is habitat loss.

Everyday, more plants become threatened with extinction. Key information in the effort to save plants includes knowing what is threatened, where it occurs, and factors that influence risk.



Apricot flowers Photo credit: © Loyd Schuster



The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ reports on the conservation status of plants and animals in every corner of the world based on scientific research. A voluntary network of Specialist Groups assesses a species' risk of extinction by comparing population and natural history information with data on threats from wild collection, trade, and human uses. IUCN is working with local governments to ensure sustainable use and conservation of plants worldwide. www.iucn.org

Fuchsia windowed Pink (Photo credit: © Solo Rapararivi) is Critically Endangered (CR) on the IUCN Red List, due to threats from wild fire, restricted distribution, and illicit collection of mature fruits by the horticulture trade. Thanks to the work of the IUCN Madagascar Plant Specialist Group, the species is now safeguarded through ex situ conservation.



Guarmania fuertenbergiana
BROMELIAD FAMILY - Bromeliaceae
Ecuador

FISCHER'S ZAMIA
Zamia fischeri
CYCAD FAMILY - Zamiaceae
Mexico

HARPER'S BEAUTY
Harperocalis flava
DEATH-CANNAS FAMILY - Malvaceae
Florida

