

How to perfectly integrate the landscape and protection functions of the garden

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Living collections are one of the core component units in botanical gardens, which undertake the important mission of plant *ex-situ* conservation, scientific research, horticultural display and environmental education. With the development of society, the characteristics of landscape art, scientific connotation, and regional culture are becoming increasingly important. Here, we take the Flower Garden and Vine Garden of the Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) as a case study to present construction and maintenance experiences. Based on ambient conditions and plant habits, different plant species, especially wild endemic plants, are utilized. We strive to create living collections similar to natural ecological communities, with landscaping using ornamental plants. Multiple planting modes are adopted to make the landscape diverse and attractive. Meanwhile, the cultural characteristics of the local Dai ethnic group are integrated into the landscape. Through these efforts, the living collections are endowed with the features of “landscape art, scientific connotation and cultural deposits”.