CONSERVATION PRACTICES – KEY TERMS

Excerpted from:

Rakow, D. A., and S. A. Lee. 2011. Public Garden Management. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Hoboken, New Jersey. p. 284.

- **Artificial selection:** selection by humans for certain traits. This can be intentional, for breeding purposes. When species are grown for a long time in cultivation, however, surviving plants may undergo unintentional selection for the growing conditions. The survivors among nursery-grown plants may be genetically disadvantaged in wild populations.
- **Congeners/conspecifics:** species in the same genus are known as congeners; individuals or populations in the same species may be called conspecifics.
- **Ecosystem services:** the benefits of nature to human beings. Examples include forests and soils slowing water runoff and preventing erosion, pollination of crop species, and providing sequestration of carbon produced by internal combustion engines.
- ***Ex situ* conservation:** conservation of an organism outside its native habitat (such as at a botanical garden or zoo).
- **Imperiled species:** species that are likely to go extinct without intervention.
- ***In situ* conservation:** conservation of an organism in its native habitat.
- **Maternal lines:** plants descended from a single individual. When seeds are collected, they are recorded and stored separately by maternal lines.
- **Orthodox seeds:** seeds that survive drying and freezing and may be stored for extended periods of time under those conditions without drying. Many temperate species are orthodox.

- **Plant respiration:** plants' release of energy from stored sources produced by photosynthesis for metabolic processes. Slowing down respiration in orthodox seeds allows them to survive longer.
- **Recalcitrant seeds:** seeds that do not survive drying and freezing. Most tropical and some temperate species such as oaks have recalcitrant seeds.