



Online Mapping Comparison Guide

The following web sources create digital maps for online display. They can be used by curators for online databasing of accessions/plant collections and/or be viewed by visitors via the internet or a mobile device. If you have map-making questions or resources, please share your expertise on our [forum!](#)

Mapping Web Source	What it does:	Who's it best for?	Example Arboreta	Cost?	Helpful Hints:
My Maps/Google Maps	Users can import large data sheets of individual accessions and/or full taxonomic collections. Users can also input this information individually. Easy to access/share. Very customizable.	Small or Medium Arboreta	University of Hawaii at Manoa	None	https://support.google.com/mymaps/?hl=en#topic=3188329
Plants Map	Establishes a community/ network of plant-focused institutions. Allows users to create an online and exportable database of accessioned woody plants and plant collections. Allows for specific plant and growing details.	All Arboreta	Edith J. Carrier Arboretum	None	https://info.plantsmap.com/category/help/maps/
GIS (ArcGIS / QGIS)	ArcGIS provides tools and geographical information to create vector data maps ¹ . Maps can be created for free and displayed via the web or mobile apps. Users can purchase advanced software for printing and distribution. QGIS is a free, user friendly open-source software ² but is less customization than ArcGIS.	Larger Arboreta/ Arboreta with tech department	University of Hawaii at Manoa	ArcGIS: \$450-\$500/YR for advanced software (free to use online) QGIS: None	http://gisgeography.com/gis-arcgis-differences/

These comparisons were modified from content provided by the manufacturer of the product. ArbNet does not endorse any specific product

¹ Vector data maps contain individual geographical data points to store and display locations visually.

² Open-source software is free and available to the public for modification, creation, display and distribution of all produced materials.

