

Denver Botanic Gardens Herbaria
Identification Services

Below is our fee schedule for identification services. The herbaria are open Monday-Thursday, 9am to 2pm. To request identification services call to make an appointment (720-865-3589) or leave the specimens and all necessary information (see sending specimens by mail below) with herbarium staff. We will provide a list of determinations* typically within two weeks but not guaranteed.

Please note: We do not guarantee species identification. We do not consult on edibility or identify species for consumption. Eating a plant or fungus based on our identification is at your own risk. Please be aware that many books with edibility information use old species names that may not match a name provided. In addition, edibility of species may shift depending on a number of environmental factors.

1. Researchers from colleges, universities, and county, state, and federal agencies or other non-profit agencies can consult the collections after an initial introduction by a staff member during normal business hours. Others, including students, may visit the collections only with the supervision of a staff member. All visitors must sign the guest book.
2. For the general public, we identify three wild collected plants or fungi free in a six month period as long as identification is not part of research or commercial project. *For anyone conducting research either academic (including students) or consulting, please see items 1, 3 or 4.* If additional identification is wanted, please see the fee schedule for non-profit agencies below (item 3). The herbarium staff usually do not identify ornamental or cultivated plants, please visit the Gardens Help Desk in the library for identification of cultivated plants. The current hours for the help desk are available online or call the visitor center 720-865-3585.
3. All non-profit researchers (including students) from colleges, universities, and county, state and federal agencies requiring identification or consulting services of the herbarium staff should budget these expenses into their grant proposals or operating costs. If you plan to deposit identified specimens or duplicates in the herbarium, then please contact the head curator as the fees may be waived. These types of services can be contracted with the herbarium staff, at the following rates:

Identifications: \$8.00/specimen*, \$40 minimum

Consulting: \$50/hour/person (one hour minimum)

4. Private, for-profit firms and consultants may use the Kathryn Kalmbach Herbarium unassisted after an initial introduction, but not the Sam Mitchel Herbarium of Fungi; if assistance is required the following rates apply.

Identifications: \$12/specimen*, \$60 minimum

Consulting: \$50/hr for assisted service, including consulting from herbarium staff (one hour minimum)

5. Identification of plants from photos is not guaranteed, and identification of fungi from photos is not recommended.

*We do not guarantee identifications to species/variety level of sterile material (specimens that lack flowers, fruits, cones, or spores) or material that is insufficient in quantity as to be unidentifiable. Insufficient material that is deemed unidentifiable will not incur a charge. If unsure about what to collect, consult the herbarium staff. Please note that a properly collected plant or fungal specimen will aid identification. A protocol for collecting and pressing plants may be requested from the head curator (melissa.islam@botanicgardens.org).

Sending specimens by mail for identification purposes, plant specimens only.

Before sending specimens by mail, please contact the head curator at 720-865-3589 or by email to melissa.islam@botanicgardens.com.

To send specimens by mail please follow the directions below. The fee schedule above applies to mailed specimens.

1. Place the pressed specimen(s) in newspaper and secure between two pieces of cardboard.
2. Include the following information:
 - Date collected.
 - Locality of the collection including habitat information, county, nearest town, and approximate elevation. If in doubt about the habitat, please provide a photo of the area.
 - Your contact information, name, address, telephone number, and email address.
3. Please indicate if an official letter should be provided with determinations.
4. Mail the specimen(s) to: Melissa Islam, Kathryn Kalmbach Herbarium, Denver Botanic Gardens, 909 York Street, Denver, CO 80206.
5. Once the plant specimens have been identified, you will be contacted with a list of determinations and an invoice to be paid within 30 days of receipt.