

# Biodiversity Dilemmas

## Dilemma One: Garden Variety Decisions

You are the new director of a botanical garden in your community, and the garden has just received a donation from a local organization to create an exhibit. Some of your colleagues are recommending that the money be used to create a prize-winning display of roses.

However, other members on the committee are urging you to consider making a display of various plants native to the area. Many people on the advisory committee have argued that native plants may be important, but that several of these species are not as attractive as roses.

How will you best use this donation in the gardens?

You may wish to take a virtual tour of Memorial University's Botanical Garden online before preparing your presentation.

### Answer the following questions:

1. What do you think are the benefits of creating an exhibit to display native plants?
2. What other alternatives could you propose?
3. What do you think people expect to see when they visit a botanical garden?
4. Why do you think native plants might not be given much attention in some gardens?
5. What do you think are some of the ways that botanical gardens can educate people about the importance of native plants?
6. As a group, decide what kind of exhibit you will create. Illustrate your exhibit, do a collage of your exhibit, or design a brochure to attract visitors to your garden. Highlight the features of your exhibit, including what species you would choose to display.
7. How do the recommendations made by your group compare to what is happening at MUN Botanical Garden?
8. Share your recommendations with the class.

