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## Monsanto Center and Garden Research Program

### Key Information Points

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#### Monsanto Center

- Opened in 1997
- Center for modern research at the Missouri Botanical Garden
- Environmentally friendly and earthquake-proof construction
- Achieved LEED certification for existing structures in 2010
- Houses the Garden's 6 million specimen herbarium
- Home to Tropicos®, the digital plant database, which makes information on 3.4 million plant species available to anyone with access to the Internet
- Houses the Garden's 125,000 volume research library, including a rare book collection with materials from the 1400s
- Over 760 volumes available through the Garden's on-line library, Botanicus.org

#### Garden Research Program

- Internationally renowned research program integral to Garden's mission "to discover and share knowledge about plants and their environment, in order to preserve and enrich life" throughout 150-year history
- Mission has overriding purpose of conservation, preservation, and restoration of our natural world
- Garden's extensive research program includes over 150 scientists working in 36 countries on 6 continents
- Garden leads the most comprehensive and productive effort in the world for finding and identifying plants, which is foundational for implementing effective strategies to search for ways to save ecosystem

- Garden conservation scientists help communities develop alternative means of supporting themselves sustainably using resources to reduce their dependence on practices harmful to the environment
- Four regions in the world where the Garden has the greatest impact

##### - Madagascar

- 90% of the plants on this island nation off the African coast are found nowhere else on Earth
- Garden has been working in Madagascar since 1972
- Trained 77 Malagasy people in conservation and botany

##### - Indo-China

- Isolated from the world since 1975, this is the most unexplored and unknown region of the world in plant and animal life
- High-speed internet made it possible for researchers to tap into Garden tools, such as Tropicos

##### - Mesoamerica

- Corridor between North and South America connects two distinct climates, uniquely positioned to demonstrate the effects of global climate change
- Garden scientists conduct expeditions, train local people to lead conservation efforts, facilitate university studies, and help communities develop alternative means of revenue

##### - Andean Region

- Region includes mountains, lowlands, dry forests, cloud forests, tropical grasslands, and savannas, providing a tremendous opportunity for researchers to explore relationships between plants and their environment
- Garden scientists work with communities develop strategies for combating poverty and cultivating natural resources without harming the environment