

Dr. Valerie C. Pence

Director of Plant Research

Dr. Valerie C. Pence is the Director of Plant Research at the Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW) at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. Dr. Pence conducts groundbreaking research in the areas of plant propagation and cryopreservation and supervises the work of all plant research at CREW.



She received her B.S. from Mount Holyoke College and both her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Northwestern University in plant physiology and development. After completing post-doctoral work in the Horticulture Department at Purdue University and in the Department of Botany at the University of Florida, she was employed in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Cincinnati as a research associate, working in plant development, and as a lecturer in the Evening College before establishing the Plant Research Division at CREW in the spring of 1986. She continues as Adjunct Research Associate Professor at the University of Cincinnati.

Dr. Pence has received the Wilson Popenoe Award from the American Society of Horticultural Science and the 1998 Association of Zoological Horticulture Conservation Award, as well as grants from the Institution of Museum and Library Services, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the New England Wildflower Society, and the Ohio Orchid Society, and others. Her interests include developing, adapting and applying the an ever increasing number of techniques available in plant science to problems facing endangered plant species, and developing new techniques where needed.



“Many plant species have disappeared from the earth forever, and many more face extinction. Battling this trend is the mission of the Endangered Plant Propagation Program at CREW.”



Lindner Center for
Conservation and Research
of Endangered Wildlife
Cincinnati Zoo &
Botanical Garden
3400 Vine St.
Cincinnati, OH 45220