

ICPS CONFERENCE 2026: NO PLANT IS AN ISLAND

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It is very unfortunate that the ICPS Conference 2026 could not be organised in the Americas, as many had hoped. This unexpected turn, however, gave Werkgroep Carnivora a unique opportunity to step forward—especially meaningful as we celebrate our 40th anniversary. In fact, we were already exploring the possibility of organizing a European Exhibition and Exchange of Carnivorous Plants to give extra shine to our anniversary when the news reached us. Shortly after submitting our bid, we were delighted to hear that we had been selected to host the conference. With the organization of the ICPS Conference 2026 entrusted to us, we immediately started preparations.

It is remarkable that, for the first time, the ICPS Conference will be held twice in the same city. The first, memorable edition in 2010 set the bar high, but we aim to deliver an event of the same quality and atmosphere once again. We hope to offer participants an equally inspiring and unforgettable experience.

The main pillars of every ICPS Conference are the lectures, the plant market, the show, the conference dinner, and the accompanying excursions. Although it is still too early to share all the details, we can already reveal that we are aiming for nine lectures spread over three days. These talks will cover the full spectrum of carnivorous plants, ensuring there is something of interest for every enthusiast.

In addition to these core elements, we want to place extra emphasis on interaction this year. The carnivorous plant community is a vibrant group of people with a wide range of insights, knowledge, and opinions. We want to tap into this wealth and encourage participants to share their experiences and ideas. The ICPS Conference is the perfect opportunity to meet one another, but we hope to go a step further together: to delve deeper into the subject matter, exchange more, and get the most out of this special gathering. Exactly how we will achieve this remains a bit of a surprise, but we promise it will be enjoyable!

Alongside interaction within our own community, we also want to highlight the fact that plants themselves live in communities. We are often so focused on carnivorous plants in our collections, research, and thoughts that we sometimes forget that, in the wild, plants never grow alone.

Together with other plant species, animals, and microorganisms, they form so-called plant communities. Such a plant community is a group of different plant species growing together in the same area, forming a functional unit with each other and their environment. In this natural interplay, plants influence one another and depend on factors such as soil, water, and light. With this perspective, we want to focus during the conference on the role of carnivorous plants within their natural ecosystems and their interactions with other species.

Unfortunately, many carnivorous plants and the plant communities in which they occur are under serious threat worldwide. One of the greatest dangers is habitat destruction: due to deforestation, agriculture, urbanization, and the draining of wetlands, the natural habitats of these remarkable plants are disappearing at an alarming rate.

In addition, poaching is a growing problem. Precisely because we, as enthusiasts and collectors, admire these plants so much, some species are being over-collected in the wild, endangering their survival. This phenomenon, sometimes referred to as “loving them to death,” shows that even well-intentioned interest can have negative consequences.

Climate change also has a major impact on the living conditions of carnivorous plants. Changes in temperature, rainfall, and water management can make their specific habitats unsuitable, putting entire plant communities under pressure. It is therefore essential that, during the conference, we not only celebrate the beauty and diversity of carnivorous plants but also reflect on our responsibility as a community to protect these unique species and their habitats.

These are not subtle issues, but as a community, we have the opportunity—and the responsibility—to address them together during the ICPS Conference. We will discuss practical solutions such as in-situ (on-site) and ex-situ (off-site) conservation, responsible cultivation, and ways to raise awareness about the importance of protecting both carnivorous plants and their ecosystems. By sharing knowledge, supporting reputable nurseries, and collaborating with conservation organizations, we can make a real difference. Together, we can ensure that future generations will also be able to enjoy these extraordinary plants in the wild.

Venue and Accessibility

The ICPS Conference 2026 will take place at the Hortus botanicus Leiden, the oldest botanical garden in the Netherlands, located in the heart of the city. This unique venue provides an inspiring and green setting for the Conference, with modern facilities and opportunities for guided tours through the special gardens.



Guided tour of a greenhouse at Hortus botanicus Leiden.

Accessibility:

- Public transport: The Hortus is easily accessible from Leiden Central Station, including by international train. It is about a 15-minute walk from the station to the garden. Several bus lines also stop nearby.
- By car: If you are coming by car, the best option is to park at the Haagweg City Parking. From there, free shuttle buses run to the city center and the Hortus.
- Airport: International guests can easily take a direct train from Schiphol Airport to Leiden Central; the journey takes about 20 minutes.

Extra tips for international visitors:

If you would like to see more of the Netherlands, there are plenty of options. Some recommendations:

- Amsterdam: Visit the famous canals, the Rijksmuseum, or the Anne Frank House.
- Kinderdijk: Admire the iconic Dutch windmills, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- The Zaanse Schans: Discover a typically Dutch landscape with historic windmills, traditional houses, and artisan museums.

Thus, attending the conference will not only provide intellectual enrichment but also the opportunity to experience the best of the Netherlands.

Dates and Programme

The ICPS Conference 2026 will take place from Friday, August 21 to Sunday, August 23, 2026. Following the conference, excursions will be organized on Monday, August 24 and Tuesday, August 25, including a visit to Carni Flora nursery in Aalsmeer, one of the largest commercial carnivorous plant nurseries in Europe.

Programme overview:

- Friday, August 21: Lectures, plant market
- Saturday, August 22: Lectures, special activity, conference dinner, plant market
- Sunday, August 23: Lectures, plant market
- Monday, August 24 & Tuesday, August 25: Excursions, including Carni Flora

We look forward to making this anniversary edition an inspiring, educational, and festive event together with you!

For more information, updates, or to get in touch:

- Email: icps@carnivora.nl
- Website: <https://carnivora.nl/icps-conference-2026/>
- Facebook: Werkgroep Carnivora

We look forward to hearing from you!



Hortus botanicus Leiden.