BG-Map TechNote

Using the Web-VQF API

Introduction

About the Web-VQF API

The Web-VQF API allows you to retrieve maps and information on plants, garden features and canned tours in the form of XML files that can be used to provide data to other software applications. At present, 6 API's are provided: Map Request, Plant Information, Tour List, Plant Name Search, Flowering or Fruiting Week Search and Garden Feature Search.

Details

Map Request API

This returns a JavaScript script to insert in the <head> section of your page to display a map showing the locations of one or more plants or garden features. The map will be contained within a <div> whose id is "map."

URL to Send

```
(your base
URL)/weboi/oecgi2.exe/Inet_ECM_XML_GetMap?mapitems=accnum*1,accnum*2
,featurecode1,featurcode2&mapnoclick=0
```

Where "accnum*1, accnum*2,featurecode1, featurecode2" represent accession numbers with qualifiers and garden feature codes – comma-separated – of the items to be displayed on the map.

If mapnoclick is equal to 1, then the map will not be clickable. Otherwise, the map will be clickable.

Information is Returned In these XML Tags

<mapscript>	The script to be inserted into the page

Note, to use this API in a web page, you need to include these elements:

1. The <body> tag must include the JavaScript statement "onload=init();"

Example:

```
<body onload="init();">
```

2. Include a `<div>` to hold the map with the id = "map" and with a class equal to one of the names in the style sheet:

`base URL/ecmweb/css/ECM_mapstyle.css.`

(This style sheet is referenced automatically by the returned script.)

Example:

`<div id="map" class="smallmap"></div>`

Plant (Taxon) Information API

This returns information on a single plant name (taxon) as identified by its *BG-BASE* name number.

URL to Send

`(your base URL)/weboi/oecgi2.exe/Inet_ECM_XML_TaxonData?NAMENUM=12345`

Where "12345" represents a *BG-BASE* name number

Information Returned In these XML Tags

Note all images are original size – not resized by the API. Images restricted from public viewing will not be included.

`<taxondata>`	Container for the data about this plant
`<link_url>`	URL that retrieve the plant information page from Web-VQF
`<audio_url>`	URL of an MP3 file that describes this plant
`<sci_name>`	Scientific name of the plant (formatted HTML)
`<for_sale>`	Plant is for sale in the gift shop ("Yes" or "No")
`<title_image>`	Container for the image selected for the top of the plant information page, if one has been selected
`<image>`	Container for all images associated with this taxon
`<image_url>`	Image URL
`<image_desc>`	Image description
`<common_name>`	Plant common name
`<alt_name>`	Container for alternate names for this plant
`<parentage>`	Parentage of a hybrid plant

<family>	Family to which this plant belongs
<nativity>	Where native
<habit>	Habit (growth form)
<leaf_type>	Leaf Type
<flowers>	Description of flowers
<fruit>	Description of fruit
<leaf_color>	Leaf color
<hardiness_zone>	USDA Hardiness Zone
<habitat>	Habitat where this plant grows
<description>	Technical description
<spec_char>	Container for special characteristics
<char>	A special characteristic
<soil>	Soil requirements
<sun>	Light requirements
<landscape_uses>	Landscape uses (non-technical description)

Canned Tour List API

This returns a list of the canned tours currently listed on your website.

URL to Send

`(your base URL)/weboi/oecgi2.exe/Inet_ECM_XML_ListTours`

Information Returned In these XML Tags

<tourlist>	Container for the tour list
<tour>	Container for data about a tour
<link_url>	URL that retrieve the tour page from Web-VQF
<audio_url>	URL of an MP3 file that describes the tour
<video_url>	URL of a YouTube video that describes the tour
<title>	Title of tour
<description>	Description of tour
<title_image>	Container for title image for tour, if one has been selected.
<image_url>	Image URL

Plant Name Search API

This returns a list of plant names and *BG-BASE* name numbers that match a search string.

URL to Send

```
(your base URL)/weboi/oecgi2.exe/Inet_ECM_XML_NameSearch?PLANTNAME=word1+word2…
```

Where word1, word2, etc. are complete or partial words from the name of the plant. The search string must contain at least 3 characters For example, to search for Japanese Maple, you could send this:

```
(your base
URL)/weboi/oecgi2.exe/Inet_ECM_XML_NameSearch?PLANTNAME=japanese+maple
```

or this:

```
(your base URL)/weboi/oecgi2.exe/Inet_ECM_XML_NameSearch?PLANTNAME=jap+map
```

Information Returned In these XML Tags

\<namelist\>	Container for the list of plant names that match the search string
\<warning\>	Error message
\<name_record\>	Container for a single plant name
\<name_number\>	The *BG-BASE* name number
\<sci_name\>	Scientific name (formatted HTML)
\<common_name\>	Common name

Flowering or Fruiting Week Search API (BG-Map 2016a or Later)

This returns a list of plant names and *BG-BASE* name numbers that have been observed flowering or fruiting during a specific week.

URL to Send

```
(your base URL)/weboi/oecgi2.exe/Inet_ECM_XML_NameSearch?weeknum=27&phenotype=flowers&noexclude=0
```

weeknum is the week number (1 to 52) being searched. In this case, 27 represents July 1 – 7.
phenotype can be flowers or fruit. If omitted, the default is flowers.
noexclude if set to 1, genera or taxa normally excluded from non-staff search results will not be excluded. If omitted, the default is 0.

Information Returned In these XML Tags

Information is returned in the same format as in the Plant Name Search API described above.

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Garden Feature Search API

This returns a list of Garden Feature Codes that match a search string.

<u>URL to Send</u>

```
(your base
URL)/weboi/oecgi2.exe/Inet_ECM_XML_FeatureSearch?SEARCHTERM=word1+word2…
```

Where word1, word2, etc. are complete or partial words from the title, description or keywords of a Garden Feature. The search string must contain at least 3 characters.

Example:

```
(your base
URL)/weboi/oecgi2.exe/Inet_ECM_XML_FeatureSearch?SEARCHTERM=palm+house
```

<u>Information Returned In these XML Tags</u>

<featurelist>	Container for the list of Garden Features that match the search string
<warning>	Error message
<feature_record>	Container for a single Garden Feature
<feature_code>	The BG-Map Garden Feature Code
<title>	Title of the Garden Feature
<image_url>	Location of image
<description>	Description of the Garden Feature