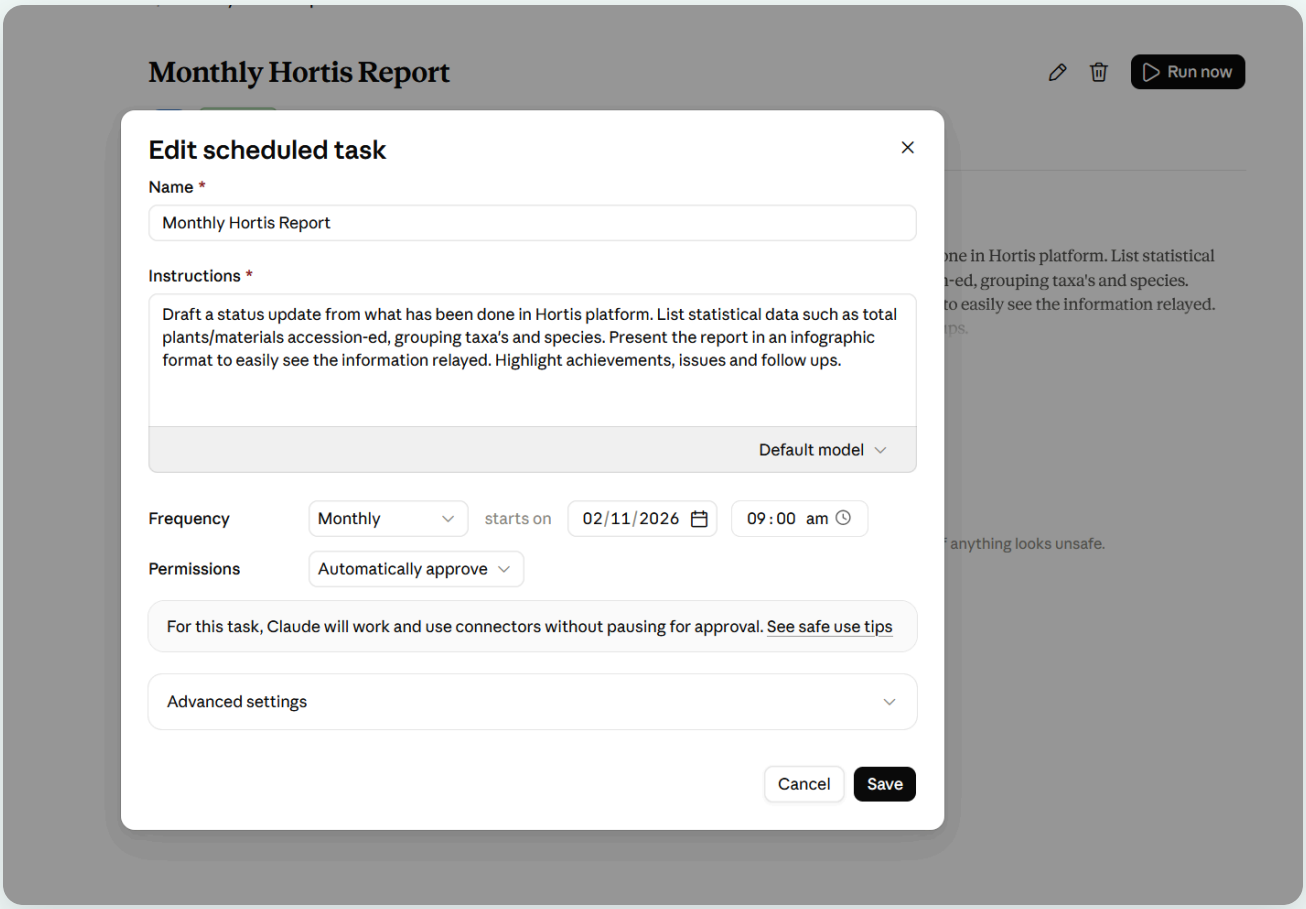
CONTEXT

Ask Hortis with Claude: a monthly report, on autopilot.

Ask Hortis lets Claude work with our Hortis plant records. As an example, a scheduled task in Claude is given one written instruction. Each month it reviews the records and produces a status report with achievements, issues and follow-ups. The result is shown on the next page.

EXAMPLE FROM CLAUDE



Screenshot of the scheduled task in Claude. The instruction is entered once and runs monthly at 9:00 am.

EXAMPLE FROM CLAUDE

Report generated by the scheduled task. Names have been anonymised for Greenfield Botanic Garden.

GREENFIELD BOTANIC GARDEN · HORTIS PLANT RECORDS · AS AT 1 OCTOBER 2026

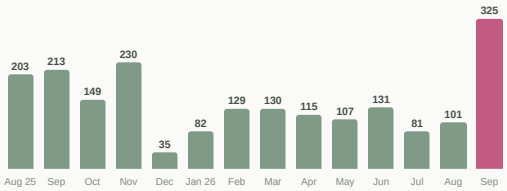
Hortis status update

2,523 plants accessioned across 84 families and 855 taxa. September was the busiest of the last 14 months, with 325 new accessions.

2,523	3,929	855	225	677
accessions	material records (3,917 present)	distinct taxa	genera in 84 families	mapped beds (411 planted)

Accessions per month

By accession date, last 14 months. 1,201 so far in 2026, 1,306 in 2025.



Top 10 families

Accessions per botanical family.

Ericaceae	389
Sapindaceae	311
Rosaceae	172
Theaceae	149
Cupressaceae	118
Pinaceae	111
Ranunculaceae	106
Lamiaceae	94
Hydrangeaceae	92
Fagaceae	82

Top 10 genera

Acer and Rhododendron alone make up 20% of the collection.

Acer	307
Rhododendron	199
Camellia	149
Helleborus	95
Hydrangea	86
Calluna	83
Betula	74
Quercus	66
Erica	61
Rosa	58

Plant form

Life form of validated taxa (some taxa carry more than one).

Tree	1,054
Shrub	564
Subshrub	260
Perennial	223
Geophyte	109
Bulb	52

Taxon level

What the accessions are named to.

Species	1,887
Genus only	599
Infraspecies	27
Unmatched	10

Conservation status

IUCN Red List status of the matched taxa, per accession.

Threatened (CR/EN/…	47
Near threatened	37
Least concern	1,000
Data deficient	18
Not evaluated	690
No data (cultivars/u…	731

Where plants came from

Recorded source per accession. 2,517 are garden provenance.

Greenfield propagation	366
Ashbourne Heritage Garden	35
Hollin Roses	24
Linden Seed Network	20
Unknown source	232
No source recorded	1,804

Achievements

- **325 accessions in September**, the busiest of the last 14 months, entered across 15 days.
- **2,523 accessions** with **3,929 material records**, none archived.
- **98% photo coverage**: 2,455 of 2,511 accessions with material have images.
- **411 of 677 mapped beds** now hold plants, with 3,907 material records placed in a location.
- **860 accessions** fully validated against the shared name index, including 599 species-level names.

Issues

- **1,663 accessions (66%)** use taxa not yet validated against the name index. 649 distinct names.
- **266 beds (39%)** have no material recorded.
- **1,804 accessions (71%)** have no source, and 232 more say "unknown".
- **599 accessions** are named to genus only, so no species is on record.
- **12 accessions** have no material record, and **56** have no photos.
- Data tidy-ups: lower-case "salvia rosemarinus 'Prostratus'" is unmatched, 3 names are synonyms and 1 is unplaced, 6 records lack material type or provenance, 97 lack native distribution, and no IPEN numbers are filled in.
- No accessions dated after 23 September.

Follow-ups

- Continue accessioning the Eastern Woodland Rooms (Central) and the Lakeside Garden.
- Finalise planting lists against propagator invoices (Greenfield propagation is the main recorded source at 366).
- Rename garden beds to the agreed scheme.
- Keep working the Upper and Lower Fen Garden beds while Rhododendron beds are paused for access. Rhododendron is 199 accessions so far.
- Validate the 649 unmatched names, starting with the most-used cultivars.
- Fill sources for the 1,804 blank records and add plants or retire the 266 empty beds.

Source: live Hortis records for Greenfield Botanic Garden (Plus plan), single collection site. Counts are of non-archived accessions; 2 accessions are deaccessioned. Beds are every location with a mapped polygon. Charts use accession dates and current record status.