

Forest Service NSL Seed Collection Data Sheet
Rare Taxa Seed Collection Form

Seed Lot Identification (for NSL use only)
Collector's ID number _____
FSNSL number _____

Date of collection: _____

Collector's name: _____

Identification number _____

Scientific name: _____ GRIN or PLANTS code (specify) _____

State _____ County _____

National Forest _____ Ranger District _____

Location where the seeds were collected: (select one or the other) (*sensitive data – not for public distribution)
Township _____ Range _____ Section _____
GPS Coordinates: lat _____ long _____ elevation _____ (meters) Decimal degree format (Accuracy of gps estimate +/- ft.) _____

Collection site description:

Element Occurrence (EO#) number from your State Natural Heritage database: _____

Number of plants found on this site: ___ 1 to 20, ___ 21 to 50 ___ 51 to 100 ___ 100+

Number of plants sampled: ___ 1 ___ 2 to 20 ___ 21 to 50 ___ 51 or more

Size of Area collected (feet, yards, acres...) _____

Habitat/Site Description:

Soil: ___ Rocky ___ Gravel ___ Sand ___ Loam ___ Clay

Soil series name: (optional) _____

Site type: ___ upland ___ wetland ___ aquatic. **Light:** ___ full sun ___ partial shade ___ full shade

Aspect: ___ N ___ S ___ E ___ W

Associated species (list max of 5): _____, _____, _____,
_____, _____

Directions to the site: _____

Photo and/or Voucher collected? ___ Y, ___ N; Where filed? _____

Instructions for completing the *Rare Taxa seed collection data sheet

*Seeds will be processed at the FS National Seed Lab and permanently stored as ex-situ germplasm collections at the ARS National Center of Genetic Resources Preservation (NCGRP) in Ft. Collins, CO.

The objective is to collect a genetically representative sample of a population without damaging its prospects for continued survival. Because each situation is different, you must judge for yourself how best to make collection decisions. Small populations of rare taxa must be handled with the greatest care. Fill out the entire worksheet for each population. Seed without complete data might not be useable.

Date: Put the date the seed is actually taken from the plant, not the date the form is filled out.

Collectors name: Your full name

Identification number: Put any unique number here that is assigned by the collector. Record the ID number on both the collection form and the bag or container of collected seed.

Scientific name: Record the genus and species for the plant. If unsure about the scientific name, consult the USDA Agricultural Research Service, Genetic Resource Information Network (GRIN) data base (<http://www.ars.grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/index.pl>). If the species is not in GRIN use the NRCS PLANTS data base.

State and county: Self explanatory.

Collection location: Either GPS or TRS lines need to be filled.

Collection and Habitat site descriptions: Please provide information for each description.

Frequent species growing in association: Can be left blank if the seed is taken from earlier an earlier stored collection and the associates are not known.

Directions to the site: Can be left blank if not known because the seed is taken from an earlier stored collection.

Collection & Documentation Protocol

1. Collect in dry weather, if possible
2. Collect mature seeds whenever possible. Slightly under-ripe dry fruits, such as capsules, can be taken if collected with several inches of stem and inverted in a paper bag.
3. Collect only seeds or fruits. Avoid collecting other plant material to reduce cleaning time and risk of insects and pathogens.
4. Use “breathable” containers such as paper envelopes or bags (and tape the opening to

- avoid spillage/leakage). Do not use plastic bags.
5. Label your bags before placing seeds in them. Label each bag with four pieces of information: 1) Species name; 2) Collector ID number; 3) Date collected, and 4) Collector name(s). If there are multiple bags, label 1 of 3, 2 of 3, etc.
 6. Place seeds from each individual plant in a separate bag.
 7. If possible, collect 10-20 seeds from 50 individuals. In populations with low numbers of reproductive individuals and/or seeds, sample as many plants as possible. **In no case should you take more than 10% of a population's yearly seed output.**
 8. Sample the population randomly. Collect from plants throughout the population – avoid biased collection by location and phenotype.
 9. Please submit copies of your collection data sheets to the Regional Botanist annually.

Shipping: It is critical that you submit your seed to the Forest Service National Seed Laboratory within a few days of collection, together with the completed field data forms, using 2-day FedEx. Pack bags and seed collection forms in a box and ship via FedEx Monday through Wednesday to the FSNSL at the address below. Visit www.nsl.fs.fed.us or call 478-751-3551 for more information. Voucher photos and herbarium specimens may be forwarded at a later date, quoting the collector's name and Identification number given to a seed collection.

SHIP TO:

Attn: Robert Karrfalt
USDA Forest Service
National Seed Laboratory
5675 Riggins Mill Road
Dry Branch, GA 31020-3126