

# A good problem to have: managing a native seed cache

## Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

### 2010 Accomplishments

The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest has successfully collected native seed from the Forest and from seed nurseries over the last few years. This created a new challenge: seed storage. Seed was temporarily stored in large plastic tubs at the Park Falls office. The CNNF had to find a storage location that would maintain seed viability. We also needed a seed inventory and pre-packaged seed mixes for a variety of conditions.

In 2010, the CNNF partnered with the Oconto River Seed Orchard to repair and rehabilitate an unused seed cooler at the ORSO facility. We then moved all of our native seed to their new home. The seed cache was organized by species, year of collection, and seed zone. Some seed was "pre-packaged" into seed mixes (shade, wetland, sunny roadside, etc) to accommodate last-minute seed requests for projects.

Finally, the seed was inventoried and the data was entered into a database so that the CNNF can keep track of our existing seed stocks.



Bins full of native seed in transit to ORSO



Oconto River Seed Orchard is the new home for the CNNF native seed cache



Seed collecting efforts on the CNNF have created a new challenge: how to store seed so it remains viable.



Packages of cleaned, labeled, local native seed

Year Awarded: initial award in 2010

Project completion: FY2010

Report number: 1 of 1

Expenditures

FY10 \$5,000

▪ **\$1,000 for ORSO intern**

▪ **\$4,000 for seasonal biotech**

Partners/Contractors/Coop: Oconto River Seed Orchard

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