

Do you enjoy spending time outdoors? Are you looking for an easy way to become involved in conservation?

Collect seeds for the Restoration Nursery!



The Champlain Valley Native Plant Restoration Nursery is looking to expanding our seed collection capacity and needs **your** help in this effort.

Why collect seed?

The Nursery propagates native plants with a focus on utilizing local seed sources. These plants are then used and sold to individuals and groups engaged in conservation and restoration plantings in Vermont such as regional watershed groups and conservation districts, private conservation organizations, and farmers and private landowners enrolled in cost-share conservation programs.

By using local seed sources we produce healthy stock that have genetics specialized for this region. Geneticists and ecologists emphasize that collecting from a sufficient number of individual parent plants within a watershed is critical to the success of planting projects. Collecting from many parent plants ensures the genetic diversity of each nursery seed lot. Variations among individuals makes the difference between temporary landscaping, and a healthy, self-perpetuating population that is an integral part of the ecosystem.

What seed do I collect?

Native plants have seed ripen at different times throughout the growing season, from May through November, with the majority of species ready for harvest in August-October. We will provide a list species that are ready for harvest now, how to ID them, and how to tell when their seed is ready. Please reach out if you need additional help with ID.

How do I collect seed?

Before collection: Scout your property or walking area for the species we are looking for and ripening seed. Gather your tools including this sheet (and/or other ID key), an initial collection bucket/ bag (easy to carry), a camera (a phone will do!), a waterproof pen/marker, and a sealable plastic bag.

During collection: Prior to taking seeds, carefully ID the species you are looking for using this guide and collect 1-3 leaves from the plant to include with your seed. Collect the seeds or berries and place them into your bucket/bag being careful not to over harvest from one plant. Take a photo of plant you collected from and enjoy your walk!

After collection: Transfer your seeds into a sealable plastic bag. Label the plastic bag and/or an attached paper with the species, location, date, and weather during collection. To help confirm ID, please include the leaves you took in the bag and send in the photo of the plant you collected from. Collected seed can be dropped off at the nursery or mailed in. If mailing, please include a paper towel in your seed bag to help control moisture levels. Want to go above and beyond? Send in a photo of you collecting seed, we love to see our volunteers in action!

Drop Off:

CVNPRN

685 York Street

Mailing:

PMNRCD

P.O. Box 209

