



American
Public Gardens
Association



APGA-USFS Tree Gene Conservation Partnership

2020 Scouting/Collecting Trip Proposals

About: The American Public Gardens Association is partnering with the United States Forestry Service's Forest Health Protection to establish living gene banks of US tree species at risk, by collecting plant material (seed, cuttings, as appropriate) from across its native range to capture broad genetic diversity then distributing propagules to public gardens for safeguarding in *ex situ* collections. The current partnership began in 2014, and includes funds to support monitoring/scouting and collecting trips, propagation and distribution of propagules.

Goal: Collect and safeguard representative sampling of a targeted taxon across its range in *ex situ* collections at a minimum of 3 (ideally 6 or more) public gardens. Efforts will focus on at-risk non-orthodox seeded taxa native to US forests which cannot be conserved through traditional seedbanking methods.

Who is eligible: Any institutional member of the American Public Gardens Association with an active *ex situ* collections program. Nationally Accredited Plant Collection™ holders will be prioritized. Collaboration between institutions is strongly encouraged. Contact Pam Allenstein at the Association if you are considering applying to learn if anyone else is also planning a trip focused on the same taxon or collecting region:

pallenstein@publicgardens.org

When to apply: Deadline for proposals is **November 18, 2019**, for trips to be completed by the end of 2020 or early 2021.

Funding: Total funds for support of scouting/collecting trips including travel, supplies, and distribution generally range \$4,500-5,500, not to exceed \$6,000. Budgets should demonstrate a 1:1 cost share. Participating institutions may include salaries/benefits, land/facilities as in-kind support as long as these aren't being used as cost share for another Federal grant. Please note funds are not intended to support research activities or ongoing maintenance of an existing collection.



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How to apply –Carefully read all guidelines, then please provide the following information:

Targeted Taxon with image:

Why is this taxon being targeted?

List locations of known populations:

Describe proposed activities, e.g. monitoring or collecting trip, propagation, distribution of propagules:

Describe your field-sampling strategy and rationale:

List lead institution which will coordinate activities and administer project:

List primary contact at project's lead institution – include name, job title, email, phone number, mailing address:

List other individuals involved, their job title, institution, address, relevant experience:

List public gardens and their city/state/province which have agreed to receive propagules:

List references consulted (include citations, correspondences, URLs):

Provide dates of travel, and timeline of field activities:

Provide itemized budget. Overhead expenses or indirect costs will not be covered. Include transportation, supplies/equipment, lodging, meals, permits & shipping costs. Clearly identify staff time, salary, benefits, land/facilities use which can be included as institutional 1:1 cost-share. These can be in-kind or cash matches, but ensure these are not already being used to match another Federal grant:

Submitted by name/institution/address/contact information:

Reporting Requirements:

Within 60 days of completion of the collecting trip, a report must be submitted to the American Public Gardens Association. The following information should be included:

- 3-5 page Narrative detailing trip and its accomplishments. Include participants/institutions, dates, objectives, daily field log, list of contacts/addresses and their contributions.
- Breakdown of actual vs budgeted expenses. Completed APGA Cost Share Form demonstrating 1:1 match.
- Copies of collecting permits, correspondence with property owners.
- List of collections made from each site, collecting data, and observations on any threats to populations.
- Map(s) identifying collecting sites.
- Photos documenting collecting trip. Electronic images with captions suitable for publication preferred.
- Set of collecting vouchers sent to herbarium at US National Arboretum. Contact [Herbarium Curator](#).
- In subsequent years, provide status of project's distributed collections to Association upon request.



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Guidelines

- Trips supported through this partnership must abide by all federal, state, and local regulations governing legally protected species and access to property. Permission is required from property owner or responsible agency for collecting. Rare, threatened and endangered plants will be collected only with proper permits. Permitting regulations vary between states, so check with the agency: <http://www.fws.gov/offices/statelinks.html>. If collecting on US Forest Service land, a Memorandum of Understanding between American Public Gardens Association and USFS is intended to streamline the process of obtaining permits: <http://publicgardens.org/about-us/partnerships/us-forest-service-partnerships> A US Fish & Wildlife Service permit is needed for collecting Federally endangered species, and for those species whose international trade is regulated through CITES: <http://www.fws.gov/permits/instructions/ObtainPermit.html>
- A set of voucher specimens are to be prepared for each population with a secondary set deposited in the herbarium at United States National Arboretum. Contact [Curator of the Herbarium](#) before sending.
- Complete documentation of each collection should be recorded. Key data includes locality, plant characteristics, habitat description. Use an identification system utilizing unique qualifiers to distinguish between individuals within a population.
- For populations exceeding 50 individuals, seed/cuttings can be collected from 50 unrelated individuals. For populations with 50 or fewer individuals, seed or cuttings should be collected from all known individuals. Do no harm. Collect no more than 10% of seeds per tree and/or population. Wild collecting should be made from as many populations as resources allow. (For more specific guidelines, consult [CPC Best Plant Conservation Practices to Support Species Survival in the Wild, 2019](#))
- To insure adequate safeguarding, propagules should be distributed to and established at a minimum of 3 sites, ideally 6 or more sites for ex situ conservation.
- We recommend that a conservation specialist be consulted to review collecting and distribution protocols for obtaining a genetically representative sampling of wild populations.
- We encourage teams to include representation from smaller gardens and emerging professionals.
- Additional recommended reference, provided courtesy of Botanic Gardens Conservation International: [“Collecting Seed From Non-Domesticated Plants for Long-Term Conservation”](#). Michael J. Way. [Seed Conservation: Turning Science Into Practice, Chapter 9](#).

Requests for further information and plant collecting proposals should be directed to:

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