

2017 SEED COLLECTOR'S NEWSLETTER

The Wisconsin DNR Reforestation Program continues to purchase seed from private collectors. Over the years, our seedling demands have changed; thus, so does our need for seed. Please read the following information carefully to understand changes in 2017. **If you have any questions, call the nursery before you begin to collect seed!**

Special Notes and Information for 2017:

Jack Pine: In the past, the Reforestation Program has purchased a lot of jack pine cones. At this point, we have enough seed in storage to satisfy our needs. Therefore, we will not purchase jack pine cones from the general public in 2017.

Sugar Maple: Sugar maple is needed in large quantities. Luckily, even with a number of species growing in WI, the natural habits of sugar maple make it easy to distinguish. Red and silver (soft) maples only drop their seed in the spring, box elder has a heavy seed crop almost every year and its seeds are very pointed and in large clusters and Norway maple (an introduced species) has large, thick leaves. The seeds are flat and broad. (see picture) and resemble the wings of an airplane.



Sugar Maple seed cluster



Norway Maple seed cluster

Sugar maple usually has green (brown as they dry) seeds and brown, dry wings that are connected in a U-shape, rather than a V-shape, like other maples. In years with heavy crops, placing a tarp under the tree, shaking the branches and collecting as the seeds fall works well. Try to avoid leaving the tarp out as it quickly fills with debris and offers a dining area for rodents.

Black cherry: When collecting cherry seed, make sure to pick from black cherry trees, *not* choke cherry. *Twig and leaf samples must accompany any cherry seed for it to be purchased.* Keep cherry seed chilled to avoid fermentation and bring it to a buying station as soon as possible.

In 2017, we are only buying black cherry at Wilson Nursery.

American Hazelnut: The hazelnut is a species of interest this fall. It is a rather common shrub, found throughout open woodlands of Wisconsin. In good seed crop years, the larger, green husks will occur in clumps of two, three or more per cluster. The nuts are hand collected when the husk has



changed from bright green to light brown. Picked too early, the nut will not be developed fully and the nursery will not purchase the seed. Deer, squirrels and other rodents find the nuts

irresistible, so pickers will need to monitor the crop and beat these woodland competitors to the bushes.

Shagbark and Bitternut Hickory: There are a few different hickory species found in Wisconsin, especially in the southwest. The most common among these is bitternut. It can be identified by a green-yellow, tight fitting husk that splits partially and continues to cling to the nut, even after falling. The bark of the bitternut is light gray, tight to the trunk and only starts to form low, interlacing ridges as it matures. The buds are sulfur yellow. In contrast, the shagbark hickory's nut is covered by a thick husk. It usually splits and separates from the nut during seed drop, but can continue to cling to the nut and must be removed prior to delivery to the nursery. Shagbark hickory has gray bark, but with the typical ridged and "shaggy" appearance. The buds are large. Regardless, all hickory nuts are high in oil and must be stored in a cool, dry place to avoid spoiling.



Bitternut hickory



Shagbark hickory

2017 STATEWIDE GOALS & PURCHASING DATES

SPECIES	HAYWARD	GRIFFITH	WILSON	Estimated Purchasing Goal	Units	2017 Purchase Prices	Approximate date to begin purchasing
Butternut			X	15	Bu	\$15.00	9/17
Cherry, Black			X	500	lbs.	\$5.00	8/13
Hazelnut, American	X	X	X	45	Bu	\$25.00	8/22
Hickory, Bitternut		X	X	10	Bu	\$45.00	9/17
Hickory, Shagbark		X	X	50	Bu	\$50.00	9/17
Maple, Hard	X	X	X	50	Bu	\$70.00	9/17
Oak, Bur			X	65	Bu	\$30.00	9/1
Oak, Red	X	X	X	140	Bu	\$35.00	9/17
Oak, Swamp White		X	X	60	Bu	\$75.00	9/6
Oak, White		X	X	145	Bu	\$35.00	9/6
Plum, American		X	X	50	Bu	\$25.00	9/6
Walnut, Black			X	800	Bu	\$3.50	9/21

CALL THE NURSERY FIRST:

Before collecting any seed, please contact the nursery first to ensure purchasing is still open for species you intend to collect. Nursery staff can assist with species identification.

Griffith Nursery (Wisconsin Rapids) (715) 424-3700
Wilson Nursery (Boscobel) (608) 485-1425
Hayward Nursery (Hayward) (715) 492-1204

Check our web page for additional information
<http://dnr.wi.gov/> Keywords: "Sell seed"

And, as always, thank you for your interest in reforestation in Wisconsin.

ASK BEFORE PICKING:

Checking regulations and following safe practices is important and will protect your ability to harvest seed from these properties for many years to come.

- State parks - It is *illegal* to pick at these locations.
- State forests/state lands - Contact the property manager prior to collection for permit information.
- County forests – Contact county forest administrator.
- Federal lands - Contact the USFS forest superintendent.
- Private lands – Obtain permission from the landowner prior to picking

Buying Stations	Contact	Phone #	Hours
Griffith State Nursery	Carey Skerven	(715) 424-3700	8 - 2
	Jeremiah Auer	(715) 459-1999	8 - 4
Eau Claire DNR Office	Keith Krajewski	(715) 839-3782	By appt.
Keshena Ranger Station	Jason Hennes	(715) 799-3896 ext. 2266	By appt.
Menomonie DNR Office	Rob Strand	(715) 232-6980	By appt.
Neillsville DNR Office	Chris Schmitz	(715) 743-5134	By appt.
Hayward State Nursery	Ray Aguilera	(715) 492-1204	8 - 4
Barnes Ranger Station	Eric Martin	(715) 795-2565	By appt.
Rhineland DNR Office	Ricky Keller	(715) 365-2634	By appt.
Washburn DNR Office	Joseph LeBouton	(715) 373-6165	By appt.
Wilson State Nursery	Roger Bohringer	(608) 485-1425	8 - 4
	Joe VandeHey	(608) 574-4904	8 - 4
Baraboo DNR Office	Paul Kloppenburg	(608) 355-4476	By appt.
Fitchburg DNR Office	Cory Secher	(608) 275-3205	By appt.
Horicon DNR Office	Randy Stampfl	(920) 387-7884	By appt.

Payment

A voucher payment system is used. The seller receives a copy of the voucher when seed is delivered to a buying station. A check to the seller is mailed in the following weeks.

Seed Cleaning

All acorns must be floated in water prior to delivery to the nursery. Acorns that sink are generally considered viable; discard any that float. Rocks and rotten acorns must be removed. Shagbark hickory nuts should have all husks removed as well. Butternut, bitternut hickory and black walnut should have their husks attached. Black cherry and American plum should still be enclosed in the fruit. If any seed is not clean of sticks, husks or debris when it arrives at the buying station, it may be rejected or a price reduction applied.

Seed Storage

Store seed in a cool, dry location and deliver it to a buying station as soon as possible to prevent heating or molding. Storage should be in a breathable container. This is especially true for white oak as it tends to sprout quickly.

The nursery may reject acorns with radicals longer than 1/2".



Griffith State Nursery
473 Griffith Avenue
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
(715) 424-3700

Hayward State Nursery
16133 W. Nursery Road
Hayward, WI 54843
(715) 492-1204

Wilson State Nursery
5350 Hwy 133 E
Boscobel, WI 53805
(608) 375-4123

