

# 2025 Seed Collector's Newsletter

**Please contact the nursery staff prior to seed collecting.**

**Seed Origin:** All seeds purchased must be of natural origin. If a tree is large, old and well-established, it is probably of natural origin. Landscaping trees originating from a private nursery or landscaping company are not appropriate for seed harvest. Failure to adhere to this requirement may put a vendor's ability to sell seed to the nursery in jeopardy.

**All purchased seeds must be separated by county of origin.**

## **Conifers**

Cones must be closed and mature. Do not pick conifer cones earlier than the approximate purchase date (in the Goals and Purchasing table). Some species are known to open and close quickly in response to humidity changes. After opening the first time, cones disperse most of their seeds.

**Red Pine:** Red pine (*Pinus resinosa*) plantations are found throughout the state, especially the



Maturing red pine cones.

sandy soils of central, northwest and northeast Wisconsin. The cones are mature when they have turned from green to purplish with red-brown tips. Use clippers to snip the cones from the branches. Be sure to store in a cool, dry area to limit mold growth or cone opening. Do not mistake Austrian or Scotch pine for red pine; Scotch pine bark is flaky, especially toward the upper part of the stem, and orange. Cones appear twisted, pointy and green, even at maturity. Austrian pine tends to be found in urban environments, has a stocky appearance

and darker bark and larger cones in comparison to red pine.

**White Pine:** White pine (*Pinus strobus*) is found throughout the state, in plantations, scattered in forests and in open areas. The cones are concentrated in the upper tree crown and ooze



Maturing white pine cones.

with sap. When mature, they are greenish-purple and plump. They begin to mature in late August but are very reactive to heat and humidity. Squirrels will cut and cache large quantities of cones just before they open, providing opportunities for pickers to gather them easily. The large, open brown cones from previous years are not purchased. Do not mistake Norway spruce cones for white pine. They, too, are large and sticky, but ripen later and tend to be more robust and heavier.

**Tamarack:** Tamarack (*Larix laricina*) is mostly found in low, wet areas of the northern two-thirds of the state. The cones mature in one



Mature tamarack cones.

year, starting reddish purple and then becoming green until they ripen into a greenish brown in late July and early August. They will open quickly in warm conditions. They can be found all over the tree, especially in good years.

## Goals & Purchasing Dates

Species	Estimated Purchasing Goal	Units	2025 Purchase Prices	Approximate Purchase Date
Butternut	40	Bu	\$15.00	Sept. 17
Cherry, Choke	105	Lbs	\$7.00	Aug. 1
Fir, Balsam	5	Bu	\$100.00	Sept. 1
Hackberry	242	Lbs	\$35.00	Sept. 30
Hawthorn	12	Bu	\$175.00	Sept. 15
Hazelnut, American	90	Bu	\$40.00	Aug. 22
Hickory, Bitternut	19	Bu	\$50.00	Sept. 15
Maple, Sugar	60	Bu	\$80.00	Sept. 17
Oak, Bur	55	Bu	\$40.00	Sept. 1
Oak, Red	70	Bu	\$50.00	Sept. 17
Oak, Swamp White	155	Bu	\$120.00	Sept. 6
Oak, White	130	Bu	\$70.00	Sept. 1
Pine, Jack	800	Bu	\$70.00	--
Pine, Red	600	Bu	\$125.00	Sept. 6
Pine, White	700	Bu	\$70.00	Aug. 13
Plum, American	90	Bu	\$50.00	Sept. 1
Spruce, Black	15	Bu	\$300.00	Sept. 1
Tamarack	40	Bu	\$750.00	Aug. 7
Walnut, Black	920	Bu	\$4.00	Sept. 21

## Call The Nursery Before Collecting

Before collecting any seeds, please contact one of the nurseries to ensure purchasing is still open for the species you intend to collect. Nursery staff can assist with species identification.

Griffith Nursery  
Wisconsin Rapids  
715-424-3700

Wilson Nursery  
Boscobel  
608-375-4123

Hayward Nursery  
Hayward  
715-492-1204

[Check our webpage for additional information.](#)

## Get Permission

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

- **State Parks/Forests/Other state-owned lands** – All state properties have a property manager. Please contact them to get any required permits. Contact the DNR Call Center at 888-WDNRINFO (888-936-7463) or use the [DNR staff directory to find a state property manager](#).
- **County forests** – Contact the [county forest administrator](#).
- **Federal lands** – Contact the [USFS forest superintendent](#).
- **Private lands** – Obtain permission from the landowner prior to picking.

## **Buying Stations And Contacts (All Hours Are By Appointment Only)**

<b>Griffith State Nursery</b>	Jeremiah Auer	715-459-1999
Eau Claire DNR Office	Kyle Coopman	715-308-4193
Appleton DNR Office	Tim James	715-701-8018
Baldwin DNR Office	Andy Ciarro	715-271-5228
Neillsville DNR Office	Chris Schmitz	715-937-0160

<b>Hayward State Nursery</b>	Richard Nessler	715-492-1204
Barnes Ranger Station	Jacob Coonen	715-816-0058
Rhineland Ranger Station	Joshua Kunzman	715-499-5042
Washburn Ranger Station	Joseph LeBouton	715-209-2149
Florence DNR Service Center*	Andy Nault	715-889-0164

<b>Wilson State Nursery</b>	Jackie Knoble	608-485-0303
	Roger Bohringer	608-485-1425
Baraboo DNR Office	Paul Kloppenburg	608-604-4846
Fitchburg DNR Service Center	Becky Gray	608-220-3022
Horicon DNR Office	Randy Stampfl	920-382-0657

\*Florence DNR Service Center will only purchase conifer cones

### **Payment**

The Reforestation Program reserves the right to refuse to purchase any seed if it does not meet our specifications. Payment is made using a tree/shrub order form. The seller receives a carbon copy of the form when seeds are delivered to a buying station. A check to the seller is mailed within 4 to 6 weeks.

### **Seed Cleaning**

**All red, white and swamp white oak acorns must be floated in water.** Acorns that sink are generally considered viable; discard any that float. Rocks and rotten acorns must be removed. Bur oak, butternut, bitternut hickory, hazelnut and black walnut are purchased with their husks/caps attached. Choke cherry and American plum should still be enclosed in fruit. If any seed is not clean of debris, 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 breathable containers.

**Griffith State Nursery**  
**473 Griffith Ave.**  
**Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494**  
**715-424-3700**

**Hayward State Nursery**  
**16133 W. Nursery Rd.**  
**Hayward, WI 54843**  
**715-492-1204**

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