



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

National Forest  
Genetics Laboratory  
(NFGEL)

2480 Carson Road  
Placerville, CA 95667  
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## GENERAL COLLECTION GUIDE FOR SEEDS

(revised 6/2013)

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**IMPORTANT!** Sample collectors are required to make contact with NFGEL staff **BEFORE** collections begin. Call (530) 622-1609 for orientation to collection procedures, Quality Assurance (QA) sampling, and equipment. Questions will gladly be answered. We want to help you make your project a success, and that means collections must be optimal!

### ***COLLECTION AND PACKING OF ALL SEED:***

Only viable cleaned seed is acceptable for testing. Please let us know if it is not possible for your seed to be cleaned before arriving at NFGEL, we will be glad to discuss your options. Pay attention to collection dates and storage conditions to ensure seed is still viable.

If there is any question about the sampling strategy for your project, call or e-mail the lab staff. Include QA samples if required for your project, as determined by NFGEL staff.

Label seed packets with the identification information (such as ramet, clone, or individual ID). Send seed in well labeled manila envelopes or plastic ziplock bags. Amounts of seed required, number of individuals and populations needed for your project will be determined when your project is developed with NFGEL staff. Let us know if you need remaining seed returned upon completion of your project.

Cardboard boxes are fine for shipping seed. Do not use damp towels or blue ice. Include an accurate packing list using seed identifications.

### ***SHIPPING:***

1. **SEND** by a traceable delivery service. (Federal Express has the best delivery time for us, but UPS or U.S. Postal Overnight Service are fine). Send to:  
USDA Forest Service - NFGEL  
2480 Carson Road  
Placerville, CA 95667  
phone: 530-622-1609; fax: 530-622-2633
2. **MARK** on the outside of the package: "PACKAGE CONTAINS SEED"
3. **ENCLOSE** a packing list in the shipment. E-mail an electronic copy of sample identification information to NFGEL at [vhipkins@fs.fed.us](mailto:vhipkins@fs.fed.us). We will reply when seed is received.
4. **CALL** NFGEL at (530) 622-1609 when material is shipped.

