

# 2016 SEED COLLECTOR'S NEWSLETTER

The Wisconsin DNR Reforestation Program continues to purchase seed on the open market 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 2016.

**If you have any questions, call the nursery before you begin to pick seed!**

As always, thank you for your interest in reforestation in Wisconsin.

**Jack Pine:** Over the past number of years, the Reforestation Program has purchased a lot of jack pine cones. The demand continues to be high. However, we currently have enough seed in storage to satisfy our needs. We will not be purchasing jack pine from the public in 2016.

**Sugar Maple:** This is our species of interest in 2016. The demand for sugar maple continues to be high. A number of maples exist in Wisconsin, luckily the trees natural habits make sugar maple relatively easy to distinguish. Red and silver (soft) maples only drop their seed in the spring of the year. Box elder has a heavy seed crop almost every year and its seeds are very pointed. The Norway maple (an introduced species) has large, thick leaves. The seeds are very flat and broad. (see picture) and resemble the wings of an airplane. Sugar maple usually has green (brown as they dry) seeds and brown, dry wings when it falls. It is relatively small compared to other maples and the connected seeds tend to form a U-shape, rather than a V-shape, like other maples. In years with heavy crops, laying a tarp under a tree and collecting it up as the seeds fall is the best method. Try to avoid leaving the tarp out too long: it will quickly fill with large leaves and debris.



Sugar Maple seed cluster



Norway maple seed cluster

**Black cherry:** When collecting black cherry, make sure that you are picking from black cherry trees, and *not* choke cherry. You are required to bring in a sample twig with the leaves attached. Bring black cherry seed to the nursery as soon as possible, and keep them chilled, to avoid fermentation.

**In 2016, we are only buying black cherry at Wilson Nursery.**



Black cherry



Choke cherry

**Shagbark and Bitternut Hickory:** Shagbark hickory nuts are 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. 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 its 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 bright, sulfur yellow. Shagbark hickory has gray bark, but with the typical ridged and “shaggy” appearance. The buds are large. Regardless, all hickory nuts are high in oils must be stored in a cool, dry place before transfer to the nursery.



Bitternut hickory



Shagbark hickory

## 2016 STATEWIDE GOALS & PURCHASING DATES

SPECIES	HAYWARD	GRIFFITH	WILSON	Estimated Purchasing Goal	Units	2016 Purchase Prices	Approximate date to begin purchasing
Butternut			X	30	Bu	\$15.00	9/17
Cherry, Black			X	500	lbs.	\$5.00	8/13
Hazelnut, American	X	X	X	50	Bu	\$25.00	8/22
Hickory, Bitternut		X	X	10	Bu	\$45.00	9/17
Hickory, Shagbark		X	X	38	Bu	\$50.00	9/17
Maple, Hard	X	X	X	50	Bu	\$70.00	9/17
Oak, Bur			X	40	Bu	\$30.00	9/1
Oak, Red	X	X	X	30	Bu	\$35.00	9/17
Oak, Swamp White		X	X	57	Bu	\$75.00	9/6
Oak, White		X	X	95	Bu	\$35.00	9/6
Plum, American		X	X	10	Bu	\$25.00	9/6
Walnut, Black			X	600	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/topic/TreePlanting/sellSeed.html>



### **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.
- County forests - Contact the local county forest administrator.
- Federal lands - Contact the USFS forest superintendent.
- Private lands – Seek permission from the landowner prior to picking

<b>Buying Stations</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Phone #</b>	<b>Hours</b>
<b>Hayward State Nursery</b>	Ray Aguilera	(715) 492-1204	8 - 4
Barnes Ranger Station	Eric Martin	(715) 795-2565	By appt.
Rhineland DNR Office	Manny Oradei	(715) 365-2633	By appt.
Washburn DNR Office	Joseph LeBouton	(715) 373-6165	By appt.
<b>Griffith State Nursery</b>	Carey Skerven	(715) 424-3700	8 - 2
	Jeremiah Auer	(715) 424-3700	8 - 4
<b>Wilson State Nursery</b>	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	Steve Holaday	(608) 275-3234	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**

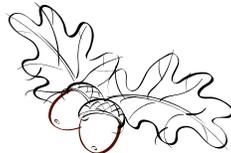
**All acorns must be floated in water prior to delivery to the nursery.** Acorns that sink are generally considered viable; discard any that float. Rocks and rotten acorns must be removed. If any seed is not clean when it arrives at the buying station, it may be rejected or a price reduction applied.

### **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.

White oak must be stored in a cool place and brought to a buying station as soon as possible. White oak 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