



Seed LA

Collection Policy

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Our Vision

As the premier native seed banking collaborative for the Los Angeles region, Seed LA provides our public, non-profit, and private partners with the highest quality native seed, along with access to our expertise and institutional resources. We are a model for conservation of urban native landscapes, pioneering best practices for collection and use of native seed and for regional collaboration, and our work helps the public increasingly value, conserve, and enhance the biodiversity of Los Angeles.

Mission Statement

To increase the availability of regionally suitable and adaptable native seed in order to conserve and enhance the ecological diversity of the greater Los Angeles area.

Guiding Principles

- Protect, conserve, and enhance the **biodiversity** of native plant populations in greater Los Angeles.
- Support essential ecological **relationships and connectivity** between wildlife populations, plant life and human life.
- Create a **sense of place** for urban residents through understanding of history and local biodiversity.
- Increase **health** for individuals in our communities through nature connection.
- Ensure **accessibility of knowledge** to the conservation community through education, training opportunities and distribution of seeds.
- Promote **science- based best practices** for seed collecting, preservation, restoration and maintenance of native ecosystems.

Strategy

To realize our mission, Seed LA will provide seeds to qualifying projects, offer trainings to increase regional capacity, and maintain a decentralized seed bank, which will be comprised of medium and short term accessions for storage and distribution. The destination of each accession will be determined on a case-by-case basis, and the framework of the decision making process is outlined in this document.

Scope of Collection

The primary focus of the Seed LA collection (Collection) is on wild native plant species naturally and/or historically occurring in the greater Los Angeles region and/or within the local watershed of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel River. If seeds originate outside of this geographic scope, then they should be ecologically adapted and genetically appropriate to the regional climate and conditions.

The focus of the collection is on target species identified by the collaborative which are selected under the following criteria:

- Plants are native and appropriate to the Greater Los Angeles Area
- Propagules of the plants are available to collect from an area within the Greater Los Angeles Area for which a collecting permit has been obtained
- Propagules of plants are orthodox and can withstand cool, dry conditions for storage.
- Plants are able to be propagated by seed and maintained in a nursery setting
- Plants are not listed, candidates, or proposed for listing as Threatened or Endangered under the Endangered Species Act
- Plants are not listed as G1, G2, S1 or S
- Plant species has high value for restoration, for example species that can survive and thrive in disturbed, urban, low water environments.
- Relict species in Greater Los Angeles whose population could be enhanced through conservation and propagation.

Seeds will be collected with permission from private, public, or government owned land in the greater Los Angeles area. Seed collection will primarily be performed by Seed LA partners with groups of trainees and/or volunteers, but may also be conducted independently with approval and permission (see Quality Standards section). Gifts or donations will not be accepted into the Collection.

Categories of Collection

The Collection is divided into two categories, a Base Collection and a Working (Active) Collection. The priority of Seed LA is to manage, maintain and distribute a working collection of seeds.

1. Base Collection, Seed LA Bank

- The base collection consists of seed material stored as medium-term storage for an archival supply of original seed. These seeds will be stored unless otherwise determined by Seed LA core collaborators. Accessions into the Base Collection will occur only when collection is greater than 7,500 seeds.

2. Working (Active) Collection, for distribution

- The active collection is in temporary storage and is used for distribution to applicants. These seeds will be distributed in accordance with distribution policy.

Utilization & Distribution Policy

Guidelines for Distribution

1. Seeds are available exclusively for projects which align with Seed LA's Guiding Principles.
2. Seed distribution is limited on availability and adequate supply.
3. Distribution is not intended for personal projects. Applicants must be sponsored by an established organization or company.
4. Seed LA will only distribute to eligible applicants for specific projects described in application. Priority will go to strategic and high impact urban restoration projects performed by experienced professionals with a record of successful projects.
5. Seeds are not intended for resale or for use outside of LA County.

Distribution Framework

The table below describes the framework for all accessions.

Total Seed Collected	Amount sent to Base Collection	Amount sent to Active collection	Amount available to Land Owner/ Permit Holder
0-7,500	None	50%	50%
7,500- >30,000	20%	40%	40%

Request for Materials

The distribution of the Active Collection is based on guidelines and determined through the Seed Request Form. These criteria are established in order to ensure seeds of the Collection are distributed to an appropriate and accountable organization and/or company.

Guidelines for Internal Member Distribution:

1. Internal members may request any seed in the Collection, but may be limited based on availability. Seed LA will accommodate as best as possible.
2. In the case that the "Landowner/ Permit Holder" is also an internal member, the individual will receive the percentage of seeds collected in that accession based on the total amount of seeds.
3. Internal members are required to fill out Request for Materials, but are not required to apply for organizational eligibility.

Guidelines for External Distribution:

1. All applicants must fill out the Request for Materials form entirely, and will be initially screened for organizational eligibility.
2. If organization is eligible, the project will be reviewed.
3. If project is approved, the organization will be notified availability and pricing options.

Non-Profits: Applicants who represent a non-profit or non-profit project are eligible to receive discounts of 20% on seeds.

For- Profit: Applicants who represent a for-profit project or business will pay a competitive and fair price on seeds. Pricing sheet per seeds varies on collection, availability and quantity.

Accessioning and Acquiring

The primary means of accessions will be collections done by Seed LA partners, organizations, individuals, groups of trainees or volunteers. Seeds may be acquired, gifted or donated from outside collection with and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, based on the means of collection, storage, length of time from harvest and viability. Seeds collected from locations outside of Los Angeles area will not be accessioned into the Collection.

Documented seed collections are acquired from and accessioned as one source type:

(W) Seed collected directly from plants growing in native habitats.

Quality Standards

Pre & Post Collection: To achieve maximum storage longevity and for the collections to provide their intended purpose, seed collections must:

- Be submitted for processing and storage as soon after collection as possible
- Be harvested at a mature stage of development.
- Be of adequate quantity for their intended purpose. The typical quantity consists of a minimum of 10,000 seeds.

Field Record Forms & Data: Wild origin seed acquisitions require a fully completed Field Record Form (or similar data record). Collection documentation at a minimum will include:

- Species identification to the species or infraspecific level.
- A verifying herbarium voucher specimen.
- Detailed locality information.
- Collector's name, collection number, date of collection.
- Habitat, aspect and degree of slope, elevation, geological substrate and plant associations.
- Population specific information (population size and number of plants sampled)

Documentation

As collection documentation adds value to the objects in the collection, documentation should be as thorough and accurate as resources allow. Appropriate records will be maintained, and periodic inventories conducted as appropriate for each collection. Collection records include (but are not limited to) documentation of provenance (including voucher specimen), accessions and deaccessions.

Deaccession

A seed collection may be deaccessioned by Seed LA under the following conditions. All data relating to such accessions will be maintained in perpetuity.

- When the collection does not meet collection quality standards.
- When the seed collection does not meet the intended purpose as defined in the collection policy.
- When it is determined that the collection does not meet the provenance criteria as defined in the collection policy.
- When the seed is no longer viable.
- When the collection is completely utilized, distributed, lost, stolen or destroyed.