

Name: _____

Date: _____

Project: Habitat Seed Collection

Purpose: To collect seeds from plants in our habitat. We will learn how to record the data associated with seed collection, enter that data into Habitat Tracker®, create seed packet labels, and produce reports associated with seed collection activities.

Collecting seeds is not only fun, it is a worthwhile and resourceful activity when managing a habitat. The collected seeds can be used to start new plants the following year, thereby continuing the existence of similar annual plants in our habitat or increasing the number of plants of a perennial variety. Another use for seeds we collect is to feed the birds throughout the winter. We could also share our seeds with other people for their habitats. By sharing seeds, we can incorporate genetic diversity into a habitat, which leads to benefits such as enhanced disease resistance. By performing this project, you will learn how to manage the data associated with seed collections.



Materials Needed:

1. Seed Collection Envelopes
(or # 3 Coin Envelopes)
2. 2 X 4 inch Labels

Project:

1. **Print** some **Seed Collection Worksheets** from Habitat Tracker®.
2. In your habitat, **Fill in** the information on the **Seed Collection Worksheet** for each of the varieties for which you will collect seeds. Make sure to include:
 - i. Collection Date
 - ii. Variety Name
 - iii. Color (Bloom color, if applicable)
 - iv. Habitat Name (if tracking more than one habitat)
 - v. A sketch of the size and shape of a seed from that variety
3. **Collect** your seeds
 - i. **Collect** seed pod and separate into seeds.
 - ii. **Clean** debris from seeds, if necessary.
 - iii. **Put** seeds into a **Seed Collection Envelope**.
 - iv. **Label** the envelope
(The label must identify the variety, the collector (you), and the originating plant -

Place the same label on the Seed Collection Worksheet

Example: Sunflower – DYS – 1)

- i. If you are filling more than one Seed Collection Envelope for the same variety, make sure you label each envelope differently.
- ii. Put your name or initials on the Seed Collection Envelope.

4. **Complete the Seed Collection Worksheet**

- i. Enter the Type of **Collection Method**
(Direct Collection, Shaking, Threshing, etc.)
- ii. **How many packets** did you collect of this variety?
- iii. What is the **intended use** of these seeds?
(Start new plants, Share with others, Feed the birds, etc.)
- iv. Do these seeds need to be **treated** in any way before they will germinate?
Many seeds remain dormant until they are subjected to specific environmental conditions. This assures that seeds produced this year will not be ready to germinate until next spring, for instance. You may need to research the answers to the following questions. We recommend a book called “Seed Sowing and Saving” by Carole B. Turner.
 - i. Do these seeds need any **Specific Treatment** before they will germinate?
 - ii. If the seeds need treatment, **how long** must they be treated for?

5. **Enter** the information for your Seed Collection Worksheets into **Habitat Tracker**®.

- i. Follow the instructions: Entering Seed Collection Data

6. **Print Seed Packet Labels** from Habitat Tracker®.

- i. Follow the instructions: Printing Seed Packet Labels

Note: You can create labels for both the Front and the Back of the seed packet envelopes with Habitat Tracker®.

The Front label identifies the plant variety.

The Back label provides information for growing that plant variety from seeds.

**Before you print your labels, make sure the data entered for the propagation of this variety is as complete as you can make it.

Navigate to the Plant Variety record and view the data on the Propagation tab.

7. **Store** your seeds in a cool, dry place.
 - i. **Note** the **Storage Location** on the Seed Packet record in Habitat Tracker®.
 - i. To get to the Seed Packet record:
 1. Navigate to the Seed Collection Record.
 2. Add or Edit a Packet record to include the storage location for each packet.
8. **Update your Habitat Journal** with your Seed Collection Data
 - i. Put all your **raw data** pages into your Habitat Journal.
 - ii. Print out a **Profile Report** of each Seed Collection for which seeds were collected. Add this report to your journal.
 - iii. Print a **Listing Report** of seeds collected this year.
 - i. Navigate to any Seed Collection Record.
 - ii. Click the Listing this Year button at the bottom of the screen.