

Quick Start for Ash Seed Collections with the National Seed Laboratory

This quick start gives essential key points for making ash seed collections, in cooperation with the NSL. Species identification and collection details are given in the **Powerpoint instructions on collecting [Ash Seed](#)** and in the booklet “Methods for collecting Ash (Fraxinus spp.) Seeds,” Both are available at http://nsl.fs.fed.us/GeneticConservation_Ash.html . Printed copies of the booklet and CDs of the video and power point are available from either the National Seed Laboratory or from NRS. Mailing addresses are found on the website.

1. Identify the species of ash you are collecting.
2. Open several seeds to be sure they are sound and mature. Without checking you might collect a bag of empty and insect damaged seeds. Check power point listed above if you do not know how to evaluate the seeds. Contact NSL if you need assistance,
3. Every seed lot needs to come from just one tree. Single tree collections are more valuable genetically.
4. Every seed lot has a unique identification number for that seed lot.
 - a. This ID number is written on the data collection sheet and the seed collection bag.
 - b. Data sheets and bags can be obtained from NSL: 478-751-3551 or bloth@fs.fed.us. Seed lot numbers will be put on the sheets by the NSL.
 - c. Data sheets can also be printed from the website (http://nsl.fs.fed.us/seed_collection_data_page.pdf). You must assign your own numbers to the sheets when doing this. Assign numbers before going to the field in order to not duplicate numbers.
5. Fill out the data sheet completely before collecting the seeds.
6. Write the seed lot number on the collection bag.
7. Collect enough seeds to cover the bottom of a paper grocery sack about 3 inches deep.
8. Keep the seeds in a cool location until they are shipped. Ship them to:

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