

Acorn Hunting Outreach – Individual Red Oak Mother Trees

The Forest Pathology Lab at SUNY ESF is seeking help collecting acorns of red oak species from individual mother trees to support applied research to develop genetic resources for restoration and adaptation in the state of New York.

We are seeking volunteers to collect fallen acorns from 10 trees within a population, up to 20 oak populations across New York State. From each tree, we are looking for 50–100 healthy, freshly fallen acorns. Target species include Northern red, black, scarlet, pin, bear (scrub), and Shumard's oak (not shown in the figure). We also want to sample oaks across a broad range of forest types, soil types, and geographic regions. This includes mixed and oak-dominated forests occurring on sandy and loamy soils, alluvial soils and floodplains, glacial till, and cliffs, as well as populations from the Finger Lakes, Allegheny Plateau, Ontario Plain, Hudson and St. Lawrence Valleys, Ontario dunes, Long Island barrens, and other representative habitats across the state.

If you think you can help please contact Dr. Geoff Williams (gmwill02@esf.edu) for more information, include your location and red oak species, and “Acorn collection” in the subject. We will send you protocols for identifying, collecting, recording metadata, and mailing acorns along with collection bags. Happy acorn hunting and please respond ASAP as the acorns are already beginning to fall!

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