



Arboretum Gene Bank and Materials Use Policy

The Arboretum was one of the first institutions to establish a living gene bank dedicated to archiving known populations of rare woody plants native to Ontario. The Arboretum gene banks grew from the long-term vision outlined in The Arboretum's first (1970) master plan, that recognized the impact of urbanization and non-native species on southern Ontario forests. The Arboretum established the gene banks as a living archive containing the genetic diversity of many rare Ontario species. In 1979, The Arboretum launched its Rare Woody Plants of Ontario Program, called *Picking up the Pawpaws*. The goal was to survey and document the status of rare woody plant species in Ontario and inform landowners of the significance of the plants on their property. Seeds or cuttings were collected from most of the wild populations or individual plants with the goal of establishing an ex-situ conservation stand for each species as a genetic back up in case in-situ conservation efforts did not maintain survival of the remnant populations. Many landowners participated in these conservation efforts, some of whom were not aware of the unusual tree or shrub species growing on their property. The living gene banks at The Arboretum reduce collection pressure of small surviving threatened and endangered wild populations, increasing the ability of those populations to naturally regenerate.

Today over 30 species of rare woody plants are archived in the gene banks at The Arboretum, across both research plots and formal collection areas as outlined in the Arboretum Masterplan. Detailed provenance data is stored in The Arboretum's plant records database (IrisBG) and guided by our data management plan. Thus these gene banks represent decades of effort, time, financial and intellectual contributions made by Arboretum staff as well as many community members and private landowners.

Research utilizing material from The Arboretum gene banks material takes on several forms, often in a partnership with Arboretum staff and affiliated faculty. Please contact The Arboretum in advance when planning projects that might use Arboretum sites or material.

The Arboretum
200 Arboretum Road
Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1G 2W1
T 519-824-4120 x52356
arbor@uoguelph.ca
uoguelph.ca/arboretum

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In alignment with the International Convention on Biological Diversity, use of plant material from The Arboretum, including our gene bank collections, is subject to the following conditions:

- 1) Material provided from collections at The Arboretum will be used for the common good in the areas of research, education, conservation and the development of botanical gardens and arboreta;
- 2) Information on the material will be appropriately stored by the recipient and the connection between the information and the material will be maintained. All data arising from research on materials provided will be shared back with The Arboretum;
- 3) All communications, including reports, white papers, presentations, publicity, and scientific publications produced using Arboretum plant material will credit The Arboretum as the source of the material. "Plant source material was provided by the University of Guelph Arboretum." Online publications will link to The Arboretum's website <https://www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum/>;
- 4) Links to any communications, and copies of any reports, papers, presentations, and publications will be submitted to The Arboretum;
- 5) Permission must be sought separately if the recipient seeks to commercialize either the genetic material, its products or research derived from it. Such commercialization will be subject to the conditions of a separate agreement with The Arboretum, and the University of Guelph;
- 6) In case of material becoming invasive in the recipient's region, The Arboretum takes no responsibility for the consequences;
- 7) Sampling of material at The Arboretum will be conducted by Arboretum staff and provided to the recipient. The Arboretum will calculate and levy fees to compensate staff time involved in sample collection and administration, based on actual time and costs incurred.

By requesting and using plant material from The University of Guelph Arboretum, the recipient accepts and pledges to respect the above conditions.

Plant Material Recipient

Recipient Organization

Arboretum Research Co-Ordinator

The Arboretum
200 Arboretum Road
Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1G 2W1
T 519-824-4120 x52356
arbor@uoguelph.ca
[uoguelph.ca/arboretum](https://www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum)

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