

Harvest Methods in Forb Seed Production Fields

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Seeds that mature evenly: “moon rover”.

These species are easy to harvest. The PMC uses this custom-made swather equipped with a conveyor belt.

- Eriogonum nudum*
- Eriogonum umbellatum*
- Ranunculus occidentalis*
- Saxifraga oregana*
- Potentilla gracillis*
- Cammas leichtlinii*
- Iris tenax*
- Lupinus polyphyllus*
- Castilleja levisecta*
- Downingia elegans*
- Downingia yina*



The Corvallis Plant Materials Center (PMC) has been researching forb seed production for over ten years. As interest in prairie restoration increases, so does the demand for forb seed. To meet this demand, the PMC has worked intimately with over a hundred species analyzing their specific seed production traits such as how evenly its seed matures and how readily its seeds shatter. Understanding these traits helps us to match the most efficient harvest method to each species that we work with. Our harvest methods aim to increase yields (making more seed available and lowering prices) and to capture the genetic diversity that is initially present in the seed increase field.

Seeds with pappas: seed stripper.

These “fluffy” seeded species can be difficult to harvest and may require multiple harvests due to long flowering periods.

- Symphytotrichum hallii*
- Anaphalis margaritacea*
- Aster chilensis*
- Solidago canadensis*
- Solidago spathula*
- Erigeron decumbens*
- Achillea millefolium*
- Artemisia suksdorfii*
- Pyrrocoma racemosa*
- Agoseris grandiflora*
- Epilobium ciliatum*



Seeds do not shatter easily: combine.

These are the easiest species to harvest. The PMC uses a small plot combine.

- Sisyrinchium bellum*
- Clarkia rhomboidea*
- Eriophyllum lanatum*
- Lupinus rivularis*
- Tanacetum camphoratum*
- Penstemon roezlii*
- Prunella vulgaris*
- Lomatium nudicaule*
- Perideridia oregana*
- Perideridia gairdneri*
- Wyethia angustifolia*
- Balsamorhiza deltoidea*
- Delphinium menziesii*
- Navarettia intertexta*
- Eryngium petiolatum*
- Sidalcea virgata*
- Sidalcea campestris*
- Sidalcea nelsoniana*



Seed matures unevenly and easily shatters: weed fabric.

These species are the most difficult to harvest. The seed can shatter on to the weed fabric then be swept, vacuumed or seed stripped.

- Lupinus albifrons*
- Lotus micranthus*
- Viola adunca*
- Silene hookerii*
- Collomia grandiflora*
- Montia linearis*
- Lotus formosissimus*
- Geranium oreganum*
- Lupinus bicolor*
- Madia elegans*
- Madia glomerata*
- Gilia capitata*
- Linathus bicolor*
- Lasthenia glaberimma*
- Myosotis laxa*
- Phlox gracilis*
- Rorippa curvisiliqua*
- Orthocarpus bracteosus*



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