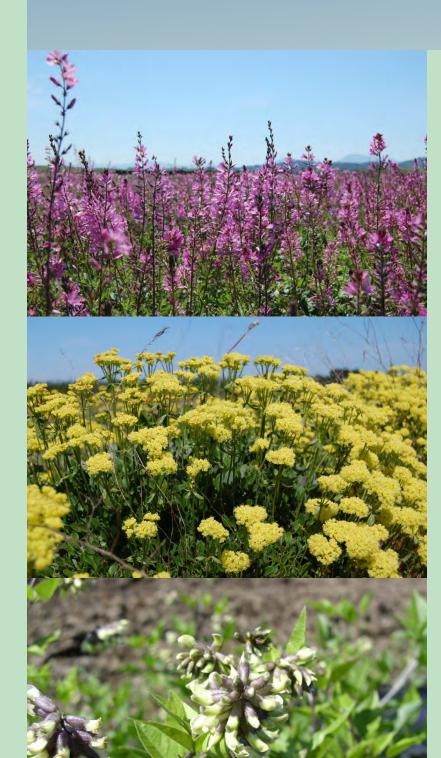
Harvest Methods in Forb Seed Production Fields

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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.



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

Lupinus albifrons

Lotus micranthus

Viola adunca

Silene hookerii

Montia linearis

Lupinus bicolor

Madia elegans

Gilia capatata

Myosotis laxa

Phlox gracilis

Linathus bicolor

Lasthenia glaberimma

Rorippa curvisiliqua

Madia glomerata

Collomia grandiflora

Lotus formosissimus

Geranium oreganum

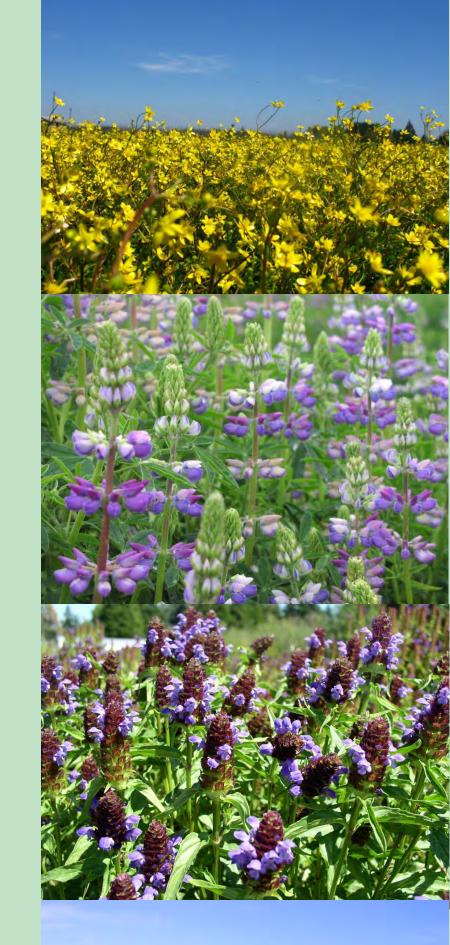
Seeds with pappas: seed stripper.

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



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.







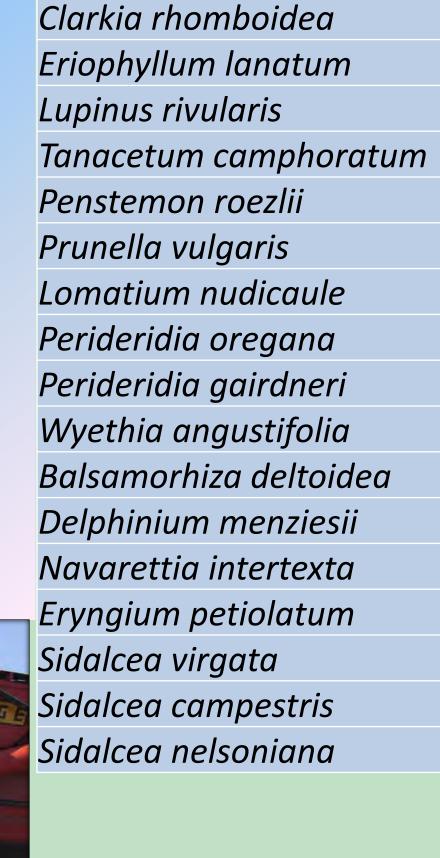






Seeds do not shatter easily: combine.

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



Sisyrinchium bellum



Acknowledgments: this work would not be possible without the PMC farmer, fabricator, equipment operator, Kevin Robb. His creativity, enthusiasm, and willingness to try new techniques is invaluable. Thanks to PMC employees Jenny Freitag, Tyler Ross, and Vanessa East, who make harvest season enjoyable and successful!

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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.

