Seeds of Success: Glossary

Alt. Collection Number – A secondary identification number representing a code assigned by another institution. It may represent another organization or individual involved in the collection, a batch number or other numbering system previously employed by the current institution, e.g. MSB378585, CH-101, 2014-16.

Approx. Area of Population – The amount of land the collection's population covers**.**

Approx. No. of Individual Plants Present and Accessible – The total number of plants in the population with collectable seed.

Area Sampled – In acres, the size of the area in which the collection was made. Since collections should be made from the entire population, this number should be very close to the actual population size.

Area within Subunit - The geographic area where the collection was made. Geographic areas are physical or logical areas that transcend the geopolitical areas defined in the State, County, Subunit fields. These may include mountain ranges, river valleys, or trail names, e.g. Marigold Trail, Red Rocks Canyon, Maroon Bells.

Aspect – The direction of the slope where the collection was made, measured with a compass, e.g. NW.

Associated Species – Scientific names for all plants found coexisting with the collected species, e.g. *Salix sp.*, *Hordeum jubatum*, and *Polygonum alpinum*.

Collector Code – BLM field office or institutional code assigned to your collection team by the SOS National Coordinating Office, e.g. AK930, NCBG or CP2.

Collector Name(s) – Names of active participants in seed collection, entered as last name, first initial, e.g. Dawson, C., Howard, M., Haidet, M.

Common Name(s) – The vernacular or trade name(s) of the collected species, e.g. blue grass, Iowa tall grass, creeping Jenny. Common names should be lower case, except for proper nouns within the names.

Collection Number – The sequential, unique, number assigned to a given collection. This number is the second part of the seed collection reference number.

County – the County in which the collection was made.

Cut Test – A test performed by cutting seeds in half to determine the viability of a potential collection. Immature seeds are usually green, and seeds ripe for collecting are usually brown with a notable live embryo. A cut test can be used to estimate the number of healthy seeds per fruit.

Date(s) Collected – Up to two dates when a collection was made from the same population, entered in DD/MM/YY format, e.g. August 4, 2005 recorded as 04/08/2005.

Date Range – If the collection dates span more than two dates, enter the range of dates, or >2 individual dates. Use DD/MM/YY format and separate multiple dates with a comma.

Ecological Site Description – General description of species composition of a site, often focusing on a dominant genus or species, e.g. *Salix*-dominated riparian.

Ecoregion – Areas within similar ecosystems with generally similar type, quality, and quantity of environmental resources. The SOS standard is to use Omernik Level III Ecoregions (http://www.epa.gov/wed/pages/ecoregions/level_iii.htm).

Elevation – Distance above or below sea level. If necessary use qualifiers: > (greater than, above), < (less than, below), ca. (about, approximately).

Estimate the number of healthy seeds per fruit – After performing a cut test, calculate the number of seeds ripe for collection per fruit.

Estimate the number of healthy fruits per plant – This number will yield an approximation of how many plants in the population need to be sampled to reach the ideal sample size of more than 20,000 healthy seeds.

Evidence of disturbance or damage – Any manipulations made to the collection site; most collections should be made on sites falling under 'No Damage.'

Family – The family to which the collection belongs.

Genus – The genus to which the collection belongs.

Geology – The mineral structure of the collection site, either a formation type or specific rock. Example: granite, limestone or sandstone.

GPS Datum – GPS device setting. When using GPS with a map, make sure both tools match. The SOS standard is NAD83.

Habitat Type – Description of the collection site as a plant community or ecosystem, e.g. oak savanna, prairie, sagebrush steppe.

Infraspecific Rank – The term preceding the infraspecific epithet, e.g. ssp. (subspecies), var. (variety), subvar. (subvariety).

Infraspecific Epithet – The taxonomic designation below the species level to which the collection belongs, part of the scientific name, e.g. *multiflora* in *Brickellia longifolia* var. *multiflora*.

Land Form – Description of local topography, e.g. flat, undulating, mountainous.

Land Owner – The public agency or municipality that is responsible for the land on which the collection was made, e.g. BLM, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. You MUST keep written permission on file in your office if a collection was made on private land; omit private individuals' names from data sheet.

Land Use – How the land is used by humans, e.g. grazing, protected area, recreation.

Latitude – Direction from the equator (N/S) in degrees, minutes, and seconds.

Location Details – The locality of the collection site, from some recognizable point to the collection site. Be detailed enough that someone can retrace the location details and find the population, e.g. 3 mi. SE of Valley View, population 100 ft. from quarry entrance.

Longitude – Direction from the Prime Meridian (E/W) in degrees, minutes, and seconds.

NRCS PLANTS Code – A code system for recording plant names in the United States is used in the USDA NRCS PLANTS Database. Plant species "symbols" are comprised of the first two letters of the genus, followed by the first two letters of the species, the first single letter of the variety name (if present), and sometimes a tie-breaking number. Use the PLANTS Database website (http://plants.usda.gov/) to query the scientific name to find the unique code.

Modifying Factors – Any event that has altered the collection site. If a modifying factor results in a cultivated population, the population can no longer be considered for collection.

Natural Dispersal Stage – The point in the population's growing cycle where seeds would be distributed without human interference. The best stage at which to collect seed.

Non-BLM Permission Filed – Permission is needed to collect on all private and non-BLM public lands. Written permission should be kept on file for all collections. Indicate "yes" that permission is filed.

No. Plants Found – Total number of plants living at the collection site; this number includes those plants whose seeds are not ripe for collection on collection day.

No. Plants Sampled – Number of plants seed was collected from. There should be a minimum of 50 plants sampled.

Plant Habit – The manner in which the collected species grows. Record one of the following: tree, shrub, forb, succulent, or grass/grasslike.

Plant Height – Distance from the ground to the top of the plant in feet and inches**.**

Population – A group of individuals living within the same collection site, continuous in range and generally uniform in appearance; one accession or collection.

Readiness of Population – The ripeness of the population on collection day; collections should be made when the population is closest to natural dispersal stage.

Seed Collection Reference Number – A number representing a unique germplasm or collection. Collector code (BLM field office or institutional code) followed by collection number (consecutive and chronological number representing the unique collection or accession), never to be reused. Collections made in different growing seasons from the same population are unique accessions or collections, assigned unique seed collection reference numbers e.g. CA170-42, OR110-347, CBG-2481.

Seed Collected From – Choose from the following: plant, ground, both. The best collections are made from plants.

Slope – Angle of incline at collection site, from 0° to 90°, measured with a clinometer or approximated in words, e.g. 30°, flat.

Soil Color – Refer to the Munsell Soil Color Chart and document color using the code and descriptive name. Use of dry soil is preferred as color changes with varying degrees of saturation. Please indicate wet or dry in parenthesis. Example: 7.5 YR 3/3 "dark brown" (dry).

Soil Texture – Describes the soil at the collection site with the following terms: clay, silt, sand, and other. Best estimated by rolling a sample of soil between the finger and thumb. See the NRCS guide to soil texturing (https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/edu/?cid=nrcs142p2_054311)

Source Used – Indicate that lat/long information came from a GPS (global positioning system) device or other mapping source such as Google Earth.

Species – The species to which the collection belongs.

State – The state in which the collection was made.

Subspecies – See ***Infraspecific Rank*** and ***Infraspecific epithet***. Please identify to subspecies or variety whenever possible.

Subunit – The named location or managed area in the subunit. This may include the city, town, village, park, forest, or refuge in which the material was collected. Spell out the entire name of the municipality. Example: Phoenix, Sonoran Desert National Monument, Antelope Island State Park.

Variety – See ***Infraspecific Rank*** and ***Infraspecific epithet.*** Please identify to subspecies or variety whenever possible