

Seeds of Success: Data Form Field Dictionary

Accession Number – A number representing unique germplasm or collection, and associated with a Seed Collection Reference Code or field number. This number is consecutive and 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. Example: CO932-5. See also *Seed Collection Reference Code*.

Alt. Collection Number – Alternate collection numbers are secondary identification number representing a code assigned by another institution. They may represent another organization or individual involved in the collection, a batch number or other numbering system previously employed by the current institution. Example: MSB378585, CH-101, or 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, in acres.

Area within Subunit - The geographic area where this 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, trail names, etc. Example: Marigold Trail, Red Rocks Canyon, or Maroon Bells.

Aspect – The direction of the slope where the collection was made. Measure using a compass. Example: NW.

Associated Species – List the scientific name for all plants found coexisting with the collected species. Example: *Salix sp.*, *Hordeum jubatum*, and *Polygonum alpinum*.

Collector Code - BLM field office or institutional code assigned to your collection team. These are assigned by the SOS National Coordinating Office. Example: AK930, NCBG or CP2.

Collector Name(s) – All active participants participating in seed collection. Collectors' name should be entered as last name, first initial. Example: Dawson, C., Howard, M., Haidet, M.

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

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

County – The country the collection was made.

Cut Test – A test performed by splitting 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 – Enter the dates a collection was made from the same population. Use DD/MM/YY format and separate multiple dates with a comma. Collections made in different growing seasons from the same population are unique accessions or collections,



assigned unique seed collection reference numbers. Example: August 4, 2005 is recorded as 04/08/2006.

Ecological Site Description – The description of a distinctive kind of land with specific physical characteristics that differs from other kinds of land in its ability to produce a distinctive kind and amount of vegetation.

Ecoregion – Ecoregions denote areas within which ecosystems (and the type, quality, and quantity of environmental resources) are generally similar. 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 – Indicate that lat/long information came from a GPS (global positioning system) device. If it did not,

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

Habitat Types – Standard terms used to describe the major habitat/s in which taxa occur; description of the collection site as a plant community or ecosystem. Example: oak savanna, prairie, sagebrush steppe.

Intraspecific Rank – The term preceding the infraspecific epithet. Example: ssp. (subspecies), var. (variety), or subvar. (subvariety).

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

Land Form – Description of local topography should be provided. Example: flat, undulating, mountainous.

Land Owner – This should reflect the public agency or municipality that is responsible for the land on which the collection was made. Omit private individuals' names. You MUST keep written permission on file in your office if a collection was made on private land. Example: BLM, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Private.

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

Latitude – Direction from the equator (N/S), degree, minute, and second.

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. Example: 3 mi. SE of Valley View, population 100 ft. from quarry entrance.

Longitude – Direction from the Prime Meridian (E/W), degree, minute, and second.

National Vegetation Classification – a central organizing framework for how all vegetation in the United States is inventoried and studied, from broad scale formations (biomes) to fine-scale plant communities. Identify to group level, if possible. For more information visit: <http://usnvc.org/>

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," as they're called, 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. See <http://plants.usda.gov/> and 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 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.

Photograph Reference – File name. Use the following naming convention to document each of the three digital images taken with for every collection: PLANTS Code_Collection Number_Picture Letter. Example: Photos for Chicago Botanic Garden's collection of *Symphyotrichum lanceolatum* are named SYLA6_CBG-419_A.jpg, SYLA6_CBG-419_B.jpg, SYLA6_CBG-419_C.jpg.

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

Sub-Populations – A cluster of individuals that are divided from the main population either physically or in appearance.

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 – Collector code, BLM field office or institutional code, followed by collection number, a consecutive and chronological number representing the unique collection or accession, never to be reused. See *Accession Number*. Example: CA170-42, OR110-347 or CBG-2481.

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

Slope – The degree of steepness at the collection site; record a number representing the degree of slope 0-90 measured with a clinometer or use a descriptive word. Examples: 30 degrees.

Soil Color – Refer to the Munsell Soil Color Chart and document color using the code and descriptive name. Example: 7.5 YR 3/3 "dark brown".

Soil Texture – Describes the soil at the collection site with the following terms: clay, silt, and sand etc. Soil texture is best estimated by rolling a sample of soil between your finger and thumb.

Species – The species to which the collection belongs.

State – The state in which the collection was made.

Subspecies – See *Infraspecific Rank*.

Subunit – The named location or managed area is 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.

Where image will be filed – Institution(s) where the image is stored.

Variety – See *Infraspecific Rank*.