

RIPARIAN LANDS NATIVE SEED PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER



Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)
© Intervale Center

The RLNSP Project Workplan is LIVE!

The Riparian Lands Native Seed Partnership has developed a 3-year project workplan that will help guide our efforts. We plan to update and adapt the plan as necessary and formally review the plan in 2028. This workplan is meant to define our work and make it transparent and accessible for potential partners and others interested in being part of the partnership. This plan is also for general audiences and potential funders who can help to support and sustain our work.

[Click here](#) to see the full workplan!

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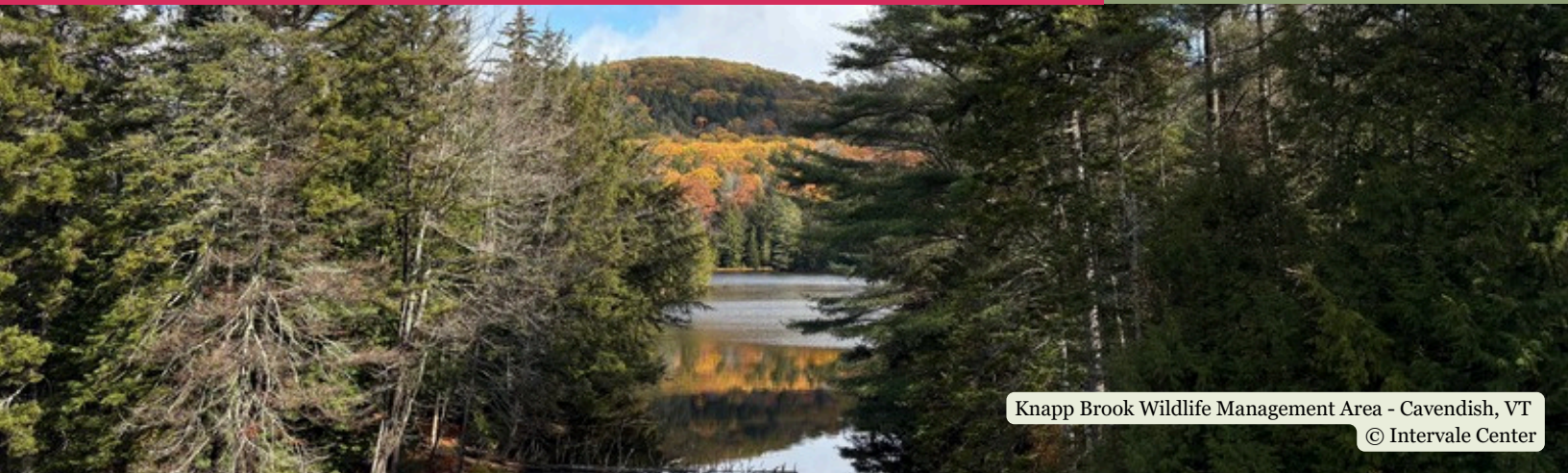
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Seed Count Quiz

Can you guess how many winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) seeds are in this jar?

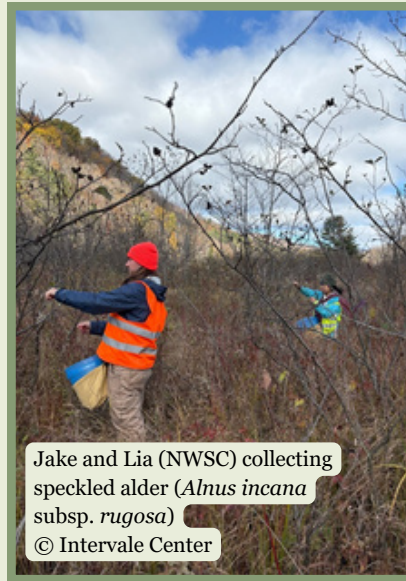
Note: This is a 16 oz (pint) size Ball jar.

Check the last page of the newsletter to see how close your guess is!



Knapp Brook Wildlife Management Area - Cavendish, VT
© Intervale Center

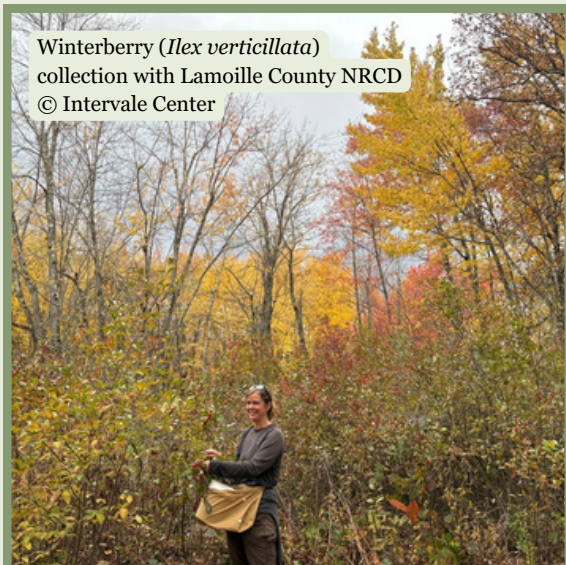
CLOSING OUT THE 2025 FIELD SEASON



In the last few weeks of the collection season, the Intervale Center and NorthWoods teams had the chance to get out in the field with folks, such as the Black River Action Team, Ducks Unlimited, Lamoille Natural Resources Conservation District, Upper Valley Land Trust, and Weathered Tree (a nursery based in Plainfield, VT). During each of our outings, we primarily focused on collecting speckled alder (*Alnus incana* subsp. *rugosa*), but also collected winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), and a few herbaceous species, such as common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), flat-topped white aster (*Doellingeria umbellata*), grass-leaved goldenrod (*Euthamia graminifolia*), and more.

We also partnered with the Center for an Agricultural Economy (CAE) to host an event with first graders from Hardwick Elementary School and high school students from Hazen Union School to collect speckled alder seeds at CAE's Atkins Field property in Hardwick, VT. With guidance from Intervale Center and NorthWoods, students learned how to use seed collection equipment, such as pole pruners. Later, the students used a number of screens to separate the seed from other plant material. [Click here](#) to see the event featured in CAE's fall newsletter!

The end of the field season also means having to sadly say goodbye to the wonderful NorthWoods Riparian Lands Program seasonal staff, Jake and Lia, for another year. We are so grateful for all the hard work they brought this year, as well as the hard work of our spring crew members, interns, and AmeriCorps members we hosted in 2025.



COLLECTION & DISTRIBUTION

2025 COLLECTION TOTALS

WOODY SPECIES = 14.8 MILLION SEEDS (178.7 LBS) FROM 44 SPECIES
HERBACEOUS SPECIES = 2.6 MILLION SEEDS (3.5 LBS) FROM 7 SPECIES

OVERALL TOTAL = 17.4 MILLION SEEDS (182.2 LBS) FROM 51 SPECIES

SEEDS SHARED WITH DIRECT SEEDING PROJECTS

VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE = 9.6 MILLION SEEDS (177.2 LBS) FROM 8 SPECIES
MEMPHREMAGOG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION = 6.5 MILLION SEEDS (42 LBS) FROM 7 SPECIES

CONSERVATION RESERVE & ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM = 3.3 MILLION SEEDS (50.8 LBS) FROM 10 SPECIES

OVERALL TOTAL = 19.4 MILLION SEEDS (270 LBS) FROM 15 SPECIES



Butternut (Juglans cinerea)



Calico aster (Symphyotrichum lateriflorum)

Since starting distribution to local conservation nurseries in fall of 2024, the RLNSP has shared 900,000 seeds (115 lbs) with the Intervale Conservation Nursery. Another 1.2 million seeds (100 lbs) was distributed to 10 more local conservation nurseries in Vermont. We are currently in the process of distributing summer and fall dispersing seeds to nurseries for the 2026 growing season. So far, we have shared approximately 10 lbs of seed to 8 local nurseries. Please reach out to Brooke directly at brooke@intervale.org if you would like to request seed. Another round of seed sharing will occur, likely in July, for nurseries who are interested in acquiring spring-dispersing seed.

The RLNSP works to meet the demand of locally adapted, source-identified native seed in Vermont. Seeds are collected with the intention to be used in restoration projects within 1-5 years of collection. We are not currently built for long-term storage, but as a temporary holding place for these seeds. Our intention every collection season is to gather seed with purpose so that we are not inadvertently extracting from the natural communities that we aim to protect and restore. During our first years of collection, we were unable to quantify the total seed needed for the current projects in the state. We started by creating a priority taxon list and following Seeds of Success protocols to collect as much from each of those species from as many sites as we could. As we have been involved in more projects and calculated how much seed we put out, we've been able to gauge much more accurately what might be needed in any given year. In the future, we hope to work with partners to identify project sites and create a priority taxon list prior to the collection season to ensure that we are able to collect with the intention needed.

Facility Planning

As a part of the RLNSP's 3-year workplan, we have prioritized the need to shift our operations into spaces that are more suitable for seed processing and storage. With the support of the Lake Champlain Basin Program's Tree Nursery Grant, the Intervale Center has finished an initial floor plan and cost breakdown for equipment and materials needed. In 2026, we will identify potential sites for the facility and evaluate their specific building requirements. Funded by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board – Memphremagog Basin's Clean Water Service Provider – NorthWoods Stewardship Center is finalizing a feasibility analysis for a Conservation Science building to expand capacity, not only for the Conservation Science Department, but for NorthWoods as a whole. The building will support activities including: seed processing and storage, bareroot tree storage, and equipment storage for water quality improvement and process-based restoration projects. The need for more suitable space for seed processing and storage is immediate, so NorthWoods is aiming to retrofit the attic of their Conservation Barn to serve as an intermediate solution to the space needs. Ideally, both buildings will also have lab space and a conference room to support shared learning and training of future land stewards. Both the Intervale Center and NorthWoods hope these facilities will serve as spaces that support our organizations as well as our state and local partners.



Jake and Lia collecting speckled alder (*Alnus incana* subsp. *rugosa*) at a private property in Lunenburg, VT.
© NorthWoods Stewardship Center

Northeast Seed Network: Northern Appalachian - Atlantic Maritime Hub Updates

The Northern Appalachian - Atlantic Maritime (NAAM) Hub is a section of the greater Northeast Seed Network that geographically encompasses Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and New Brunswick. In 2025, organizations within the NAAM Hub established that we will be focused on collecting and providing bulk seed that: strengthens the seed supply chain across the US/Canadian border, supports viability of our northern flora in a changing climate, and supports best ecological function and resilience in the face of novel pathogens, predators, and competitors in our region. By mid-2025, we finalized a priority taxon list that was a critical first step in building the seed supply chain for our hub. In 2026, we aim to finalize a communications plan that will allow for more partnership crossover and engagement, finalize protocols, and identify needs from end users. If you are interested in learning more, reach out to Brooke at brooke@intervale.org.





Seed Count Quiz Results:

There are approximately 36,150 winterberry seeds in this jar!

CONNECT WITH US

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RESOURCES



RLNSP:
[Survey123](#)
[Form](#)



VCE:
[iNaturalist](#)
[Phenology](#)
[Tracking in](#)
[New England](#)

The Riparian Lands Native Seed Partnership would not be possible without the financial support and advisory guidance of our core partnering organizations!

