

RIPARIAN LANDS NATIVE SEED PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

Boxelder (*Acer negundo*) flowers
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Reprioritization of Target Species

Late last winter, the RLNSP went through a process to reprioritize our target species list for seed collection. This process included cross-referencing several state and regional restoration plant lists, as well as reaching out to local conservation nurseries to review their priorities and capacity gaps in seed collection.

We reviewed the following plant lists:

- Vermont Planting Guidelines for ANR State Lands
- NRCS Tree and Shrub List
- UVM Reforestation Guide
- Xerces Society: Native Plants for Pollinators and Beneficial Insects (Northeast)
- Northern Appalachian - Atlantic Maritime Hub List
- USFS Climate Change Atlas Tree Species

Each time a species was mentioned in a list or by a nursery, it was given a point. All points were tallied and each species received a score. Higher scoring species were then set as priorities for seed collection. At the end of the review, we identified a total of 80 species that we plan to scout sites for and collect in 2026 and 2027 depending on masting cycles and availability. To see the finalized list, see pages 3 and 4.

This process is a part of our commitment to understanding the dynamic needs for native plant materials in restoration projects within Vermont. We plan to continue updating our priority list every few years to adapt to evolving demands.

For questions or feedback, reach out to brooke@intervale.org

THIS ISSUE

REPRIORITIZATION OF TARGET SPECIES

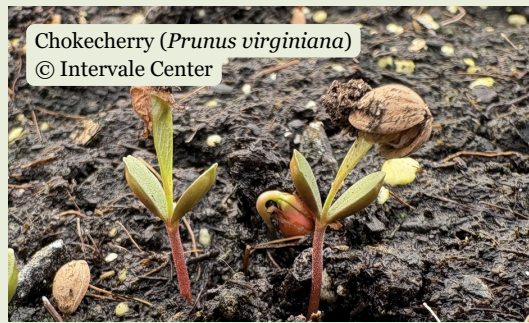
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Basswood (*Tilia americana*)
© Intervale Center



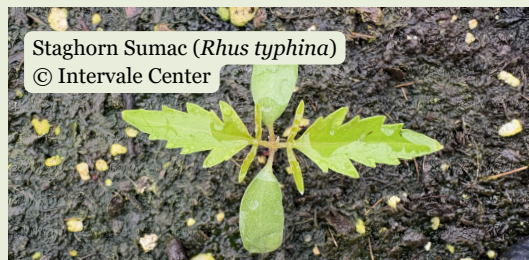
Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)
© Intervale Center



Serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*)
© Intervale Center



Black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*)
© Intervale Center



Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus typhina*)
© Intervale Center



Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)
© Intervale Center

Visiting the National Tree Seed Centre



As our planning for a dedicated seed facility in Vermont continues, we have connected with native seed banks across the continent. At the end of March, Brooke and Jess visited the National Tree Seed Centre (NTSC) based in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada to learn more about the equipment and processes they use. Huge thanks to the NTSC staff who were so giving with their time and knowledge!

Did you know tree seeds went to space? See [this article](#) for more information on tree seed that the NTSC sent on the Artemis II mission around the moon!

Cooperative Crew Model

This year, NorthWoods Stewardship Center and the Intervale Center are collaborating to house and run multiple crews throughout the season that focus on native seed collection efforts. In the past, both organizations have run separate crews, but this year, NorthWoods will manage both crews; one based in the Northeast Kingdom (at NorthWoods Stewardship Center) and one based in the Champlain Valley (at the Intervale Center). Consolidating hiring and training under one organization helps expand our regional capacity and allows both coordinators to more effectively devote time to identifying new collection locations, partnerships, and advancing the RLNSP's goals.

SEED CREW STRUCTURE



Both seasonal Program Assistant positions will span the entire seed collection season from April to November. The terms of the crew members, AmeriCorps member, and interns vary from the spring season into the summer. The work of these crews would not be possible without the financial support of the Lake Champlain Basin Program, Great Lakes Fishery Commission, and the One Hive Foundation.

Woody Species

Balsam Fir – *Abies balsamea*
 Boxelder – *Acer negundo*
 Red Maple – *Acer rubrum*
 Silver Maple – *Acer saccharinum*
 Sugar Maple – *Acer saccharum*
 Mountain Maple – *Acer spicatum*
 Speckled Alder – *Alnus incana* ssp. *rugosa*
 Serviceberry – *Amelanchier* spp. (*A. arborea*, *A. laevis*)
 Black Chokeberry – *Aronia melanocarpa*
 Yellow Birch – *Betula alleghaniensis*
 Black / Sweet Birch – *Betula lenta*
 Paper Birch – *Betula papyrifera*
 Gray Birch – *Betula populifolia*
 Bitternut Hickory – *Carya cordiformis*
 Shagbark Hickory – *Carya ovata*
 Common Hackberry – *Celtis occidentalis*
 Common Buttonbush – *Cephalanthus occidentalis*
 Pagoda Dogwood – *Swida alternifolia*
 Silky Dogwood – *Swida amomum*
 Gray Dogwood – *Swida racemosa*
 Red Osier Dogwood – *Swida sericea*
 Beaked Hazelnut – *Corylus cornuta*
 White Ash – *Fraxinus americana*
 Black Ash – *Fraxinus nigra*
 Green Ash – *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*
 American Witchhazel – *Hamamelis virginiana*
 Winterberry – *Ilex verticillata*
 Black Walnut – *Juglans nigra*
 Tamarack – *Larix laricina*
 Hophornbeam / Ironwood – *Ostrya virginiana*
 White Spruce – *Picea glauca*
 Black Spruce – *Picea mariana*
 Red Spruce – *Picea rubens*
 Red Pine – *Pinus resinosa*
 Eastern White Pine – *Pinus strobus*
 American Sycamore – *Platanus occidentalis*
 Balsam Poplar – *Populus balsamifera*
 Eastern Cottonwood – *Populus deltoides*
 Bigtooth Aspen – *Populus grandidentata*
 Quaking Aspen – *Populus tremuloides*
 Pin Cherry – *Prunus pensylvanica*

National Native Seed Conference

Near the end of February, Brooke and Jess attended this year's virtual National Native Seed Conference! Hosted by the Institute for Applied Ecology, the National Native Seed Conference is an annual gathering that connects research, industry, land management, and restoration professionals dedicated to strengthening the native seed supply chain. This year's theme was Seeds for Change: Building Resilient Native Seed Infrastructure. Some key topics included: developing native seed community and partnerships, native seed production, seed-based restoration practices, and more! Most notable though was the plenary speaker Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer who is an author, scientist, and inspirational member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. See below for a description of her talk.

“Ecological restoration can be understood as an act of reciprocity, in return for the gifts of the earth. This talk explored the ecological and ethical imperatives of healing the damage we have inflicted on our land and waters. We traced the evolution of restoration philosophy and practice and considered how integration of indigenous knowledge can expand our understanding of restoration from the biophysical to the biocultural. Reciprocal restoration includes not only healing the land, but our relationship to land. In healing the land, we are healing ourselves.”

To learn more about Dr. Kimmerer's latest work, check out plantbabyplant.com

National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration

Brooke attended and presented a poster at the National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration (NCER) in mid-April. In 2026, the NCER theme focused on the “Return on Investment” in ecosystem restoration for the nation and how that return can guide future planning, funding, and implementation. The conference also explored themes of change, adaptation, and the future of restoration; fostering fresh ideas through interactive discussions and interdisciplinary dialogue.

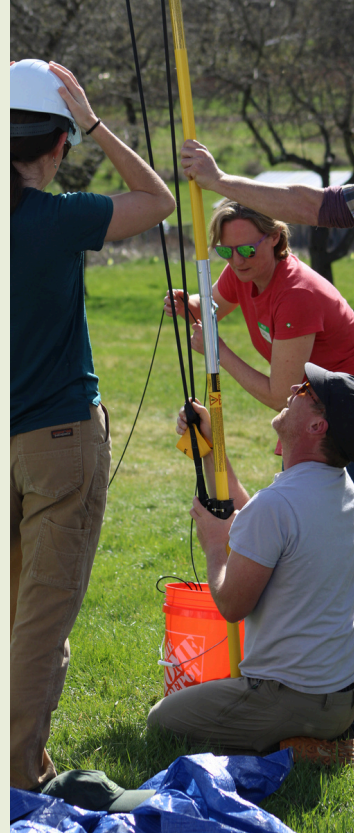
- Black Cherry - *Prunus serotina*
- Chokecherry - *Prunus virginiana*
- White Oak - *Quercus alba*
- Swamp White Oak - *Quercus bicolor*
- Bur Oak - *Quercus macrocarpa*
- Northern Red Oak - *Quercus rubra*
- Staghorn Sumac - *Rhus typhina*
- Elderberry - *Sambucus canadensis*
- Sandbar Willow - *Salix interior*
- Shrub Willow - *Salix* spp. (*S. bebbiana*, *S. discolor*,
S. eriocephala, *S. sericea*, *S. lucida*)
- Black Willow - *Salix nigra*
- White Meadowsweet - *Spiraea alba*
- Steeplebush - *Spiraea tomentosa*
- Northern White Cedar - *Thuja occidentalis*
- Basswood - *Tilia americana*
- Eastern Hemlock - *Tsuga canadensis*
- American Elm - *Ulmus americana*
- Slippery Elm - *Ulmus rubra*
- Lowbush Blueberry - *Vaccinium angustifolium*
- Arrowwood - *Viburnum dentatum*
- Hobblebush - *Viburnum lantanoides*
- Nannyberry - *Viburnum lentago*
- Wild Raisin - *Viburnum nudum*
- Highbush Cranberry - *Viburnum opulus* var. *americanum*

Herbaceous Species

- Swamp Milkweed - *Asclepias incarnata*
- Common Milkweed - *Asclepias syriaca*
- Poverty Oat Grass - *Danthonia spicata*
- Showy Tick Trefoil - *Desmodium canadense*
- Flat-Topped White Aster - *Doellingeria umbellata*
- Virginia Wildrye - *Elymus virginicus*
- Common Boneset - *Eupatorium perfoliatum*
- Grass-Leaved Goldenrod - *Euthamia graminifolia*
- Spotted Joe Pye Weed - *Eutrochium maculatum*
- Little Bluestem - *Schizachyrium scoparium*
- Gray Goldenrod - *Solidago nemoralis*
- Calico Aster - *Symphotrichum lateriflorum*
- New England Aster - *Symphotrichum novae-angliae*
- Blue Vervain - *Verbena hastata*
- Golden Alexander - *Zizia aurea*

Ash Conservation Gathering

Ash stewards around the state gathered at Smokey House Center in Danby, VT at the end of April. This event was offered in partnership with Vermont Land Trust, Vermont Forest Parks and Recreation, NorthWoods Stewardship Center, Intervale Center, Forest Stewards Guild Sustaining Ash Partnership Network, and the Ecological Research Institute. On the first day, all attendees learned about methods to conserve ash trees through emerald ash borer monitoring, seed collection, resistance breeding, and more! On the second day, we connected, strategized, and planned for future collaboration.





CONNECT WITH US

Brooke Fleischman (she/her)
Statewide Seed Coordinator (Intervale Center)
brooke@intervale.org

Jess Colby (she/her)
Riparian Lands Program Coordinator (NorthWoods Stewardship Center)
jess@northwoodscenter.org

RESOURCES



RLNSP:
Survey123
Form



VCE:
iNaturalist
Phenology
Tracking in
New England



RLNSP:
2025-2028
Project Work
Plan

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

