

540.96 Seed Storage Policy of the National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
NATIONAL CENTER FOR GENETIC RESOURCES PRESERVATION**

1111 South Mason Street
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521-4500

ABBREVIATED POLICY STATEMENT

1. The Laboratory is a federal facility and all seed accepted for storage comes under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Government.
2. Only seed will be accepted for storage.
3. Valuable seed stocks will be accepted by the Laboratory from federal and state institutions, commercial seed interests, and private individuals.
4. Any bona fide research worker of the United States, its territories, and possessions, can receive seed from collections stored at the Laboratory, subject to restrictions in item 5. However, seed will not be provided by the Laboratory if they are available commercially or are in working stocks of research agencies. The Laboratory will suggest sources of supply.
5. The Laboratory will not provide bulk supplies or seasonal stocks.
6. Inventories of the stocks held in storage are available on GRIN and hard copies can be obtained upon request.
7. Only clean seed of reasonably high germination is acceptable for storage. If seed of low viability (below 60 to 65 percent germination) is received, they will be held on a tentative basis until the donor is able to provide replacement seed of higher viability (85 percent germination or better).
8. No charge will be made by the Laboratory for furnishing seed.
9. If seed has been accepted officially, the National Plant Germplasm System will be responsible for the increase of stocks if, during storage, viability drops to a point that there is a danger of loss of the accession or if stocks become depleted as a result of seed distribution.
10. The Laboratory will not assume responsibility for replenishing stocks if the accessions received are subminimal in quantity or in viability.
11. The principal objective of the Laboratory is long-term holding of valuable seed. Research projects related to the Laboratory's objective (physiological problems in seed viability and longevity) will be conducted at the Laboratory.

In addition to the policy above, recommendations have been made as to what constitutes “valuable seed.” The following categories of seed will be accepted by the Laboratory.

New Varieties or Cultivars:

All newly released varieties or cultivars, whether private, public, or commercial origin, including reselections from varieties or cultivars continuing in current use.

New Alternative Releases:

All new Alternative release which fall within the AOSCA accepted categories of either Tested, Selected, Germplasm, or Source Identified releases.

Current Varieties and Cultivars:

Varieties and cultivars currently in use and under registration by respective crop group organizations, or otherwise documented as to specific origin and distinguishing characteristics. This group includes varieties approaching obsolescence that have been superseded by new or currently popular varieties or cultivars.

Open-Pollinated Varieties:

Stocks representing earlier varieties or types of specific crops that have been or will be replaced in the commercial field by hybrids.

Obsolescent Germplasm:

Samples representing holdover material from earlier research programs and of no immediate interest.

Genetic Stocks:

Materials of academic and genetic interest, such as marker genes, mutants, translocations, monosomics, trisomics, and other chromosomal aberrations. Replenishment of such stocks, if in a heterozygous state, is the obligation of the donor. For the later type of stocks, the Laboratory serves only as an insurance against loss.

Plant Introductions:

From regional and federal introduction stations or other agencies (NRCS) as seed is increased beyond “working stocks.”

All inquiries concerning minimum quantities of seed required for specific crops, documentation, seed condition or quality, and other routine information should be addressed to the USDA-ARS, National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation, 1111 South Mason Street, Fort Collins, Colorado 80521-4500.