

## *Acer macrophyllum* Big-leaf Maple



<https://blogs.uoregon.edu/dickman/tree-id/broadleaves/big-leaf-maple/>



[https://oregonstate.edu/trees/broadleaf\\_genera/species/image\\_big/Ace-mac-21.jpg](https://oregonstate.edu/trees/broadleaf_genera/species/image_big/Ace-mac-21.jpg)

The samaras-seed pods-are ripe when they are entirely brown. This usually happens in October-November. If you wait to collect past mid-November, you will likely be collecting off the ground, which is only preferable if you are collecting from the road side. If the seeds have fallen in the grass or brush, it is difficult and inefficiently time-consuming to pick them up. It is suggested to wear gardening gloves when collecting Big-leaf maple samaras because they have small prickles covering the seed coat.

There are a couple different options for collecting Big-leaf maple. I prefer the first option as it collects less debris and is quite efficient if done on time (before the samaras fall).

**Tip:** Bring hand clippers and check the viability of the tree by cutting open a sample of samaras. If the seed in the pod is present, full (meaning the seed is there and not shriveled), and green/white, then the seed is viable. Big-leaf maple has an average of 1 full samara per 5, so if you assess viability within that average, then the tree is worth collecting from.

**Method 1:** While the samaras are still hanging in bundles from the tree(s), collect the bundles.

### Materials needed:

- Coffee can/milk jug with a necklace rope tied to it to wear around your neck.
- Large seed bag(s)- could easily be garbage bags.
- Gardening Gloves.
- Orchard Ladder, or (less preferable) construction ladder (ladder is optional, but extremely helpful for larger trees [which tend to bare more fruit])

### Instructions

This method is best executed in pairs.

The collector wears the coffee can necklace around their neck, which allows them to use both their hands to collect the seed. The entire bundles can be picked at once and tossed into the coffee can necklace until full. Then empty your loot into the seed collection bag and continue!

If a ladder is present, one person collects from the ladder while the other person acts as a safety spotter and offers the bag once the collector's coffee can is full.

If a ladder is not present, pairs are still helpful in that one person can hold down the branches as the other person collects.

**Method 2:** Lay tarps down under the tree(s) and weigh them down extensively along the edges so as not to blow away. It is best to lay them down in early October so that as the seeds fall over the weeks, the tarps catch them. It is suggested that you get prior approval to lay the tarps down if the trees are not located on land that your entity owns.

Materials needed:

- Large tarps
- Weights such as bricks, stones, wood, etc.

**Seed Collection Ethic**

The rule of thumb is to not collect more than 15% an individual plant and to collect from 15 parents. Since several NORP partners will be collecting from multiple locations up and down the coast, we can satisfy the 15 parent parameter.

In terms of only collecting from 15% of the plant, there are a lot of things I take into consideration when accessing this.

- How much of the seed has already blown?
- How large is the plant and how much of the seed am I not able to reach?
- How much seed is on the plant?
- How many parents are there around to replenish the gene pool?

As a native seed collector, it tends to be difficult to find individual plants that are producing enough viable seed, are accessible (not on a steep slope or in a drainage), and that we actually found/located! Therefore, I personally believe that the 15% rule is a little strict and common sense and judgement should be used in conjunction with it.



Lewis and Clark National Historic Park and the Student Conservation Association collecting Thimbleberry on

**Malus Fusca, Western crabapple**



<https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/malus-fusca>



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/jim-sf/4153915219>

The fruit of Western crabapple is ripe when the fruit changes from a green-peach to a mat rouge, which tends to happen in mid-late October and early November. The birds tend to like this seed, so it is best to collect before it's gone.

**Method:** From the trees

**Materials needed:**

- Coffee can/milk jug with a necklace rope tied to it to wear around your neck.
- Large seed bag(s): could easily be grocery bags.
- Orchard Ladder, or (less preferable) construction ladder (ladder is optional, but extremely helpful for larger trees [which tend to bare more fruit])

**Instructions**

Due to the small size of the fruit, it may take a while to fill up a coffee can. If working in pairs, it is best if both people collect at the same time.

If a ladder is present, one person collects from the ladder while the other person collects from the lower branches.

If a ladder is not present, people can collect individually, as well as team up so that one person can hold down the branches as the other person collects.

Once coffee cans are full, empty into seed collection bag and continue!

## Seed Collection Ethic

The rule of thumb is to not collect more than 15% an individual plant and to collect from 15 parents. Since several NORP partners will be collecting from multiple locations up and down the coast, we can satisfy the 15 parent parameter.

In terms of only collecting from 15% of the plant, there are a lot of things I take into consideration when assessing this.

- How much of the seed has already blown or been foraged?
- How large is the plant and how much of the seed am I not able to reach/access?
- How much seed is on the plant?
- How many parents are there around to replenish the gene pool?

As a native seed collector, it tends to be difficult to find individual plants that are producing enough viable seed, are accessible (not on a steep slope or in a drainage), and that we actually found/located! Therefore, I personally believe that the 15% rule is a little strict and common sense and judgement should be used in conjunction with it.



Lewis and Clark National Historic Park and the Student Conservation Association collecting Thimbleberry on Tillamook Ridge, 2019.

### **Acer circinatum, Vine Maple**

The samara-seed pods are ripe when they are entirely brown. This usually happens in September. If you wait past mid-September, you run the risk of missing the seed window. These seeds are more time consuming than Big-leaf maple because there are generally less per tree and do not grow in bundles, but often one to three samaras per twig.

**Tip:** Vine maples are mostly an understory plant that tend to reproduce vegetatively. Therefore, when found in the understory, they often do not produce seed. Vine maples that are found in the sun, often in yards or edges of roads and clear cuts, tend to bare seed. However, if you find a seed-bearing plant in a yard, please make sure there are no other ornamental varieties of maple (such as Japanese maple) around it. If there are, please do not collect from that tree. Ornamentals and native maples hybridize.



There are a couple different options for collecting Vine maple. I prefer the second option as it collects more seed in less time (even if you get a lot of debris along with the seed).

**Method 1:** While the samaras are still hanging from the tree(s).

#### **Materials needed:**

- Coffee can/milk jug with a necklace rope tied to it to wear around your neck.
- Large seed bag(s): could easily be grocery/garbage bags.
- Gardening Gloves.
- Orchard Ladder, or (less preferable) construction ladder (ladder is optional, but extremely helpful for larger trees [which tend to bare more fruit])

#### **Instructions**

Since the seed is small, it can take a while to fill up a coffee can. If working in pairs, it is best if both people collect at the same time.

If a ladder is present, one person collects from the ladder while the other person collects from the lower branches.

If a ladder is not present, people can collect individually, or team up so that one person can hold down the branches as the other person collects.

Once coffee cans are full, empty into seed collection bag and continue!

**Method 2:** Lay tarps down under the tree(s) and weigh them down extensively along the edges so they do not blow away. It is best to lay them down in early September so that as the seeds fall over the weeks, the tarps will catch them. It is suggested that you get prior approval to lay the tarps down if the trees are not located on land that your entity owns.

### Materials needed:

- Multiple large tarps
- Several weights such as bricks, stones, wood, etc.

### Seed Collection Ethic

The rule of thumb is to not collect more than 15% an individual plant and to collect from 15 parents. Since several NORP partners will be collecting from multiple locations up and down the coast, we can satisfy the 15 parent parameter.

In terms of only collecting from 15% of the plant, there are a lot of things I take into consideration when accessing this.

- How much of the seed has already blown?
- How large is the plant and how much of the seed am I not able to reach?
- How much seed is on the plant?
- How many parents are there around to replenish the gene pool?

As a native seed collector, it tends to be difficult to find individual plants that are producing enough viable seed, are accessible (not on a steep slope or in a drainage), and that we actually found/located! Therefore, I personally believe that the 15% rule is a little strict and common sense and judgement should be used in conjunction with it.



Lewis and Clark National Historic Park and the Student Conservation Association collecting Thimbleberry on Tillamook Ridge, 2019.

# NORP Partner Volunteer Seed Collection Records\_2020

Organization: Siuslaw W.C., Siuslaw W.C.D.

Location Info	Hours Info	Seed Collection Info
<p>Location:</p>  <p>Mileage:</p>  <p>GPS Coordinates:</p>	<p>Date:</p>  <p>Hours:</p>  <p># People:</p>	<p>Species:</p> <p>Volume (gallon estimate):</p> <p># Parent Plants:</p> <p>Species:</p> <p>Volume (gallon estimate):</p> <p># Parent Plants:</p>
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