

Collecting DNA vouchers for the National Tallgrass Prairie Seed Bank

The National Tallgrass Prairie Seed Bank at the Chicago Botanic Garden is reinstating collection of DNA material to accompany our regular seed and herbarium voucher collections. Our aim is to make the National Tallgrass Prairie Seed Bank as valuable a resource as possible to researchers both here at CBG and at outside institutions. Tissue samples for future DNA analyses can be collected easily, following a few simple protocols.

Contract botanist will receive in the mail labeled DNA sample envelopes inserted into plastic baggies filled with silica for drying (1 paper envelope per assigned seed collection). If more supplies are needed as the season progresses, contact David Sollenberger, Seed Bank Manager dsollenberger@chicagobotanic.org and more will be sent to you.

How to collect a leaf sample for future DNA analysis

A piece of leaf tissue (roughly 1 x 5 cm) should be removed from one individual plant, or better yet, from one of the herbarium vouchers you have taken to accompany each seed collection. Remove the leaf (a younger leaf is better than a senescing one) and place it inside the labeled small paper envelope we've provided. Please fill out the information on the paper envelope label, except for the Identification Number (generated at CBG). These samples will be stored in separate locations than your seed collections or herbarium vouchers so it's essential that they are accurately labeled. Then insert the paper envelope (with leaf sample), into the small ziplock baggie with provided silica, and seal.

Ship to Chicago Botanic Garden as soon as possible – DNA leaf samples can certainly be put into the same box with your seed collections for easier shipping.

If you have any questions at all about protocols, etc. please contact David Sollenberger, Seed Bank Manager dsollenberger@chicagobotanic.org, (847)835-6957.