# Developing Seed Zones for Trees and Plants in the Eastern US

# May 9-10, 2018

# University of Kentucky at Lexington

## Who we are

The Eastern Seed Zone Forum (ESZF) includes a wide assortment of people interested in the collection, production, storage and deployment of seed of trees and native plants. The forum is led by employees of the USDA Forest Service from all three deputy areas: National forest system (NFS), Research and Development and State and Private Forestry.

## Mission statement

The mission of the Eastern Seed Zone Forum is to develop terminology that describes the origin of seed in the eastern US that would be used by practitioners in many fields.

## Who should attend?

We welcome participation from our partners in federal and state agencies, botanical gardens, universities, NGOs, private companies, and Extension agents. The focus is trees and plants used for reforestation or restoration plantings.

## Goals of the summit

The goal of this summit is to provide a space for conversation among partners around five different topics:

1. developing a unified terminology that relates to seed origin of plant material
2. describing taxa that would be exempt from this framework
3. developing protocols for labeling and distributing seed
4. developing a framework for seed zones for plants and trees

## Desired Outcomes

* Refined terminology related to seed origin.
* Completed list of plant or tree taxa for which seed zones should be applied
* Develop a framework for labelling seed by origin, and application
* Delineate different tools to help determine optimal seed sources for a changing climate.
* Describe next steps for broadcasting and implementing seed zones.

## May 9 (first day)

### 0830-0900 Introduction and welcome to the Seed Zone Summit (ESZF committee)

### 0900-0930 Session one: Does source identification matter?

Panel members: John Seymour, Barb Crane.

#### 0930 – 1130 Group discussions - How do we measure success? What makes an effective seed zone?

#### 1130 – 1200 Group reports

## 1200 – 1300 Lunch

### 1300 - 1400 Session two: What factors are important to delineate seed zones in the east?

Speaker: Brad St Clair, Kevin Potter, Anantha Prasad

#### 1400 – 1600 Group discussions - What factors belong in a model for seed zones in the eastern US?

### 1600 – 1700 Group reports

Group reports before COB: One person from each region reports on the layers that would be most meaningful in their team-area or quadrant.

## May 10 (second day)

0830 – 0900 Session three: Seed collection zones for different taxa.

Speakers: Kayri Havens, Joan Walker

#### 0900 – 1130 Group discussions - What are criteria for including/excluding taxa?

#### 1130 – 1200: Group reports

## 1200 – 1300 Lunch

### 1300 – 1400 Session four: What are the challenges to implementing seed collection zones? Speakers: Stephen Handler, Barb Boysen

#### 1400 – 1500: Group discussions: How can seed zones be implemented effectively?

### 1500 – 1700: Group discussion - What have we learned?

Delegation of responsibilities for short and long term needs.

* + Short term needs: designate teams to review new provisional maps, write peer-review publication, and provide interim guidelines and nomenclature.
	+ Long term needs: Online tool, manual of seed zones, downloadable maps, handbook of recommendations for consumers of plant material and vendors who sell plant material.