



Scientific Plant Research Permit Information Sheet Proposal and Amendment Guidance

The following should be used as a guide when planning research on state-listed plant species:

1. The Department generally will not authorize collection of more than 10% of the seed or 5% of the vegetative growth produced by any population of a listed species during any given year. In your proposal please justify the amount you would like to collect.
2. Moving plants, seeds, or pollen from one location or population of the plant to another is generally discouraged, unless it is part of an overall recovery program, because of the possibility of genetic contamination of local natural populations. Proposals involving such movement must include justification of why this design is necessary and must address the possibility of likelihood of contamination. Methods to prevent any possible genetic contamination should be discussed.
3. If your research will include reintroduction, translocation, augmentation, or introduction activities, the following criteria must be met:
 - a. A written statement from the landowner or property manager authorizing the reintroduction.
 - b. Reintroduction sites must have permanent protection in the event the reintroduction succeeds.
 - c. The investigator(s) must agree to monitor for a period that is long enough to assess the success of the reintroduction (we generally recommend seven years).
 - d. The investigator must demonstrate an attempt has been made to determine the genetic diversity between and within populations and explain the results of those data.
 - e. Before planning a reintroduction, you should consider and include in your proposal the following factors: habitat suitability, probability of success, potential genetic contamination, and long-term protection and management needs (including funding sources).
4. Research should be conducted in a manner that is consistent with conservation ethics. Collections of voucher specimens should be made only when such actions will not jeopardize the continued existence of the population and in accordance with applicable state and federal permit regulations, and generally are not needed from sites which have already been vouchered. Voucher specimens should be deposited at recognized public herbaria for future reference. Photography should be used to document plant identification and habitat whenever possible, but especially when the population cannot withstand

collection of voucher specimens. The Investigators should take all precautions to minimize damage to rare species, the associated soil, and surrounding vegetation during field work.

5. Principal Investigators should possess the following qualifications:
 - a. Experience as a botanical field investigator with plant identification skills and experience in experimental design, field methods, plant ecology, and at least a rudimentary knowledge of population genetics.
 - b. Familiarity with the flora and fauna of the area, including rare species.
 - c. Familiarity with the appropriate state and federal statutes related to rare plants and plant collecting.
6. Any unused seed collected from a state-listed species should be deposited at a facility which has the expertise and equipment necessary for seed storage, under direct arrangement with that facility and with Department approval.
7. Any activity on a wildlife management area administered by the Wildlife Division requires written approval of the area manager in addition to the permit. Any activity on a state park, natural area, or historic site administered by the State Parks division requires a separate permit. This may be requested from: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, State Parks Natural Resources, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744; 512-389-4897.

What Should I Include in My Proposal?

Please use the following format to prepare a proposal for your research project involving one or more state-listed plant species.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Submitted by: (Name, affiliation, address, phone number, email)

Date: (Date prepared)

Re: (Scientific names and common names of all species to be covered by permit)

1. Principal and Assistant Investigators.
2. Title of the Study. Please include the direct or indirect applications of the study results to species management.
3. Location of the Study Site. Please include map(s), as well as written location information. At least one of the maps should show the study site on the USGS 7½' topographic quadrangle (or portion thereof). Be sure to include quadrangle name.
4. Methods. Describe in detail your experience with these methods:
 - a. Collection of Plant Material: Include type of material to be collected (seed, leaf, cutting, etc.), amount of material to be collected per plant and per population (justify, if greater than 5%), collection techniques, and approximate date(s) of collection.

- b. Manipulation of Plant Material. (ex. pruning, girdling, use of a trellis or netting).
 - c. Disposition of Plant Material. State where plant material (e.g., voucher collection) that remains following the completion of the study will be deposited.
 - d. Habitat Manipulation. Describe any manipulation of habitat (e.g., clipping of competing species).
 - e. Data and Analysis. Describe data to be collected and how they will be analyzed.
5. Impact to State-listed Plants. Please be sure to provide a written justification explaining how the species will benefit from the proposed activity.
6. Schedule of Work. Please be sure to include a date range of when the proposed permitted activities will begin and end.

How can I make a small revision to my already permitted project?

Occasionally, a permit holder determines that a small amendment will be required to meet the goals of their already proposed and permit-authorized activities. When making a small revision to an already permitted project be sure to include the title of the project, the specific revision, and a strong justification for the new authority. If this is a completely new project, TPWD will require a new application.

Mail or email all requests to the following address:

Texas Parks & Wildlife
Wildlife Diversity Permits Section
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744
wpoffice@tpwd.texas.gov