Harvest Methods in Forb Seed Production Fields
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The Corvallis Plant Materials Center (PMC) has been researching forb seed production for over ten years. As interest in prairie restoration increases, so does the demand for forb seed. To meet this demand, the PMC has worked intimately with over a hundred species analyzing their specific seed production traits such as how evenly its seed matures and how readily its seeds shatter. Understanding these traits helps us to match the most efficient harvest method to each species that we work with. Our harvest methods aim to increase yields (making more seed available and lowering prices) and to capture the genetic diversity that is initially present in the seed increase field.

Seeds that mature evenly: “moon rover.”
These species are easy to harvest. The PMC uses this custom-made swather equipped with a conveyor belt.

- Eriogonum nudum
- Eriogonum umbellatum
- Ranunculus occidentalis
- Saxifraga oreana
- Potentilla gracilis
- Commas lechitini
- Iris tenax
- Lupinus polyphyllus
- Castilleja levisecta
- Downingia elegans
- Downingia jina

Seeds do not shatter easily: combine.
These are the easiest species to harvest. The PMC uses a small plot combine.

- Silyrischium bellum
- Clarkia rhomboidea
- Eriogalium lomatium
- Lupinus rivularis
- Tanacetum camphoratum
- Penstemon roezli
- Prunella vulgaris
- Lomatium nudicaule
- Perideridia oregana
- Perideridia gairdneri
- Wyethia angustifolila
- Balsamorhiza deltoidea
- Delphinium menziesii
- Navaretia intertexta
- Eryngium petiolaratum
- Sidalcea virgata
- Sidalcea campestris
- Sidalcea nevaniana

Seeds with pappus: seed stripper.
These “fluffy” seeded species can be difficult to harvest and may require multiple harvests due to long flowering periods.

- Symphyotrichum hallii
- Anaphalis margaritaece
- Aster chilensis
- Solidago canadensis
- Solidago spathula
- Eriogonum decumbens
- Achillea millefolium
- Artemisia suksdorfi
- Pyreocoma racemosa
- Agoseris grandiflora
- Epilobium ciliatum

Seed matures unevenly and easily shatters: weed fabric.
These species are the most difficult to harvest. The seed can shatter onto the weed fabric then be swept, vacuumed or seed stripped.

- Lupinus albifrons
- Lotus micranthus
- Viola adunca
- Silene hookeri
- Callirhoe grandiflora
- Monia linearis
- Lotus formosissimus
- Geranium oreganum
- Lupinus bicolor
- Media elegans
- Madia glomerata
- Giloa capitata
- Linanthus bicolor
- Lasthenia glaberimma
- Myosotis laxa
- Melia gracilis
- Ranunculus crumisiliqae
- Orthocarpus bracteatus

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