



# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION TO DIRECT SEEDING

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*Row seeding with tree planter*



# INTRODUCTION

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The purpose of this Direct Seeding Handbook is to establish guidelines for the who, what, when, where, how, and how much as relates to seeding directly nuts and seeds to establish a variety of hardwood tree species.

The intent of this handbook is to provide practical information that allows for local modification and input. It may be necessary for the user to read or collect needed information from reference materials provided. It is the intent of the primary developers to borrow from existing knowledge to the fullest extent and to broaden the scope of contents only when local users require further information.

Modifications and improvements will be considered annually, but they will be the result of local requests or a need for more exacting technical information in line with policies and procedures of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forest Resources or the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

This handbook provides the basics for successful direct seeding of a variety of forest species. Direct seeding is presented as another tool, together with seedling tree planting, for achieving high-quality stands of hardwood trees.

## DIRECT SEEDING SUBCOMMITTEE

### of the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts (AISWCD) Forestry Committee

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# DIRECT SEEDING COORDINATORS

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These individuals have a high level of interest in making direct seeding of woody species happen locally and statewide. These individuals are willing, ready, and able to tackle this activity because of current knowledge or ability to learn new skills. These individuals will typically be Resource Conservationists or other persons who work for or with the local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

## Direct Seeding Coordinator Responsibilities

- ◆ Acts as first level of contact locally.
- ◆ Is knowledgeable of direct seeding techniques, local activities, and sites planted.
- ◆ Maintains list of direct seeding contractors.
- ◆ Helps establish seed needs.
- ◆ Helps identify seed trees and/or shrubs for local collection.
- ◆ Organizes seed collection.
- ◆ Networks with other coordinators concerning seed needs and availability.
- ◆ Develops needed reports in a timely manner.
- ◆ Arranges for local storage of seeds to maintain quality for planting.
- ◆ Helps establish local or regional purchase price and resale price by species needed.
- ◆ Has a list or knows what direct seeding equipment is available for collecting, sorting, storing, and planting.
- ◆ Determines, with supervisor, what training is needed to carry out these responsibilities.
- ◆ Schedules and receives needed training in a timely manner.
- ◆ Provides review and development comments to develop and maintain a useful Direct Seeding Handbook.
- ◆ Publicizes locally the practice of direct seeding (radio, newspapers, newsletters, information sheets, etc.).
- ◆ Maintains photo files for various direct seeding activities.
- ◆ Engages in any other activity that positively promotes direct seeding.

# DIRECT SEEDING TECHNICAL CONTACTS

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These individuals have a high level of interest in making direct seeding of woody species a common occurrence in their county or district. They will generally be individuals with strong technical backgrounds in forestry or forestry related activities. These individuals will typically be District Foresters, District Conservationists, or other professionals proficient with programs and activities related to direct seeding. These persons will be in direct or regular contact with the Coordinator.

## Technical Contact Responsibilities

- ◆ Provides guidance and/or training to the Coordinator.
- ◆ Provides technical support for program funded or individually initiated direct seeding activities, i.e. develops conservation plans, forest management plans, planting plans, etc. needed to assure successful direct seeding activities.
- ◆ Develops with others local seed quality criteria and provides this information to local collectors.
- ◆ Communicates with appropriate Foresters (IDNR, District or State level, or NRCS Agroforester) on direct seeding issues when guidance is needed.
- ◆ Follows state level guidance (standards, handbook, published reference lists, etc.) for carrying out direct seeding activities or obtains a variance.
- ◆ Reviews Direct Seeding Handbook and other guidance materials and offers suggestions and comments for improvements.
- ◆ Helps contractors and others to improve equipment and ability to establish forest plantations by direct seeding.
- ◆ Talks with Coordinator regularly during busy seasons (collecting, planting, follow-up) to assure quality criteria are followed.
- ◆ Determines, schedules, and completes training needs in a timely manner.

# DIRECT SEEDING COORDINATORS & TECHNICAL CONTACTS BY COUNTY

## COORDINATORS

## TECHNICAL CONTACTS

### Brown County

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## DIRECT SEEDING COORDINATORS & TECHNICAL CONTACTS BY COUNTY

### COORDINATORS

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**NOTE:** *In lieu of those listed, contact an IDNR District Forester.*





# REFERENCES

- \*Direct Seeding.** Nov. 1999, Iowa Forestry Extension Note F-363. Wray, P.H., G. Beyer, and S. Tate. 2 pp.
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- OR**
- Seeds of Woody Plants in North America.** 1992. Young, J.A. and C.G. Young. Dioscorides Press. 407 pp.
- Silvics of North America, Vol. 1, Conifers and Vol. 2, Hardwoods.** 1990. Agricultural Handbook 654. USDA Forest Service. Vol. 1, 675 pp. Vol. 2, 877 pp. Available on the Web at: [http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/silvics\\_manual/table\\_of\\_contents.htm](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/silvics_manual/table_of_contents.htm).
- USDA PLANTS database.** USDA, NRCS 1999. National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA. Available on the Web at: <http://plants.usda.gov/plants>.

*\*Copy provided in Appendix of Direct Seeding Handbook.*

**NOTE:** *Copies of all of the above are available for up to a 2-week loan from the NRCS State Agroforester. Some references may also be available from IDNR District Foresters, the IDNR Forest Management Staff Forester, and the State Cooperative Extension Forester.*