

SEED QUALITY ICONS



NATIVE

Indicates species present in this region prior to European Colonization (c. 1600). Plants moved and migrated (due to humans & other factors) prior to 1600, but the native/non-native dichotomy does not account for this.



INTRODUCED

This label indicates species that arrived in this region post-1600 and are now “naturalized”, meaning they live and reproduce on their own without human intervention, and have more or less integrated ecologically.



“INVASIVE” IN CONTEXT

Species with this icon are considered to be too successful (taking habitat and resources from species deemed more desirable) in some contexts. NESL does not advocate spreading these seeds without special consideration for the context in which they will be propagated.



TOXIC

Species that bear this label are considered toxic to humans when consumed. Some may also be poisonous to pets. Many are not toxic to wildlife, however, and can provide nutrition for urban dwelling creatures.



MEDICINAL

Species with this label have a record of use as human medicine in one or more cultures. Further research is recommended as some may also be toxic.



EDIBLE

This label indicates species that can be eaten safely by humans. Further research into identification, harvesting and preparation methods is recommended.



SOIL REMEDIATOR

Also known as “hyperaccumulators”, species bearing this label are especially good at growing in soils that have been heavily polluted by human activity. They accumulate toxic (to humans) heavy metals in their tissues.



SOIL STABILIZER

This label indicates species that have strong, dense root networks that are good at holding soil in place and preventing erosion due to wind, flooding, or other disturbance.



POLLINATOR/INSECT FRIENDLY

This label indicates species that produce flowers that are particularly beneficial to pollinators and other insects.



PIGMENT PRODUCING

Species that bear this label produce flowers, berries, leaves and/or roots that can be used as dyes or paints.



ORNAMENTAL

This label indicates plant species that, in addition to growing spontaneously, are also purposefully cultivated by humans who enjoy how they look.



WILD CROP COUSIN

Species bearing this label are related to plants traditionally cultivated for human consumption, potentially harboring genetic diversity not longer present in their domesticated relatives.



HUMAN UTILITY/TOOL

This icon marks species for which humans have developed material uses or processes (clothing, shelter, other material goods)