



Collecting Seeds

When:

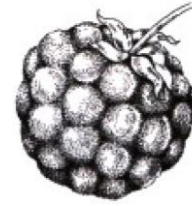
In the seasonally dry forests of northern Thailand, fruiting peaks at the end of the dry season and at the end of the rainy season. Monitor seed trees frequently to judge the best time to collect fruits.

Where:

To maintain genetic variability collect seeds from at least 10 parent trees, as close as possible to the planting site, and mix together prior to sowing.

What:

Collect fleshy fruits once they are fully ripe, usually after they change colour from green to a brighter colour.



Examples of fleshy fruit



Dry fruits are ripe when they start to split open. Get fruit from the tree rather than the ground if possible. Climb the tree or shake the branches, or use a cutter mounted on the end of a long pole.



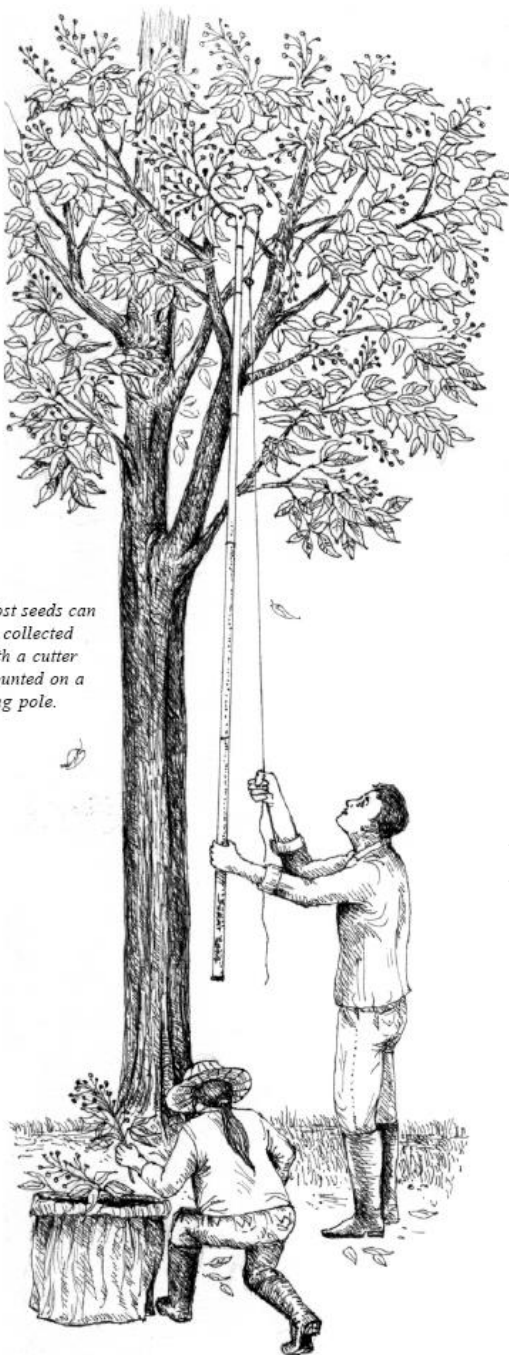
Examples of dry fruit



For very tall trees, collect fruits from the forest floor making sure the seeds are not rotten, by cutting them open and looking for a well developed embryo, and/or a solid endosperm (if present). Do not collect any fruits or seeds with signs of fungal infection, teeth marks from animals or small holes made by seed-boring insects.

Next:

Sow seeds as soon as possible after collection. Do not leave them in sun, where they may dry out and do not leave them in damp places, where they may rot or germinate prematurely.



Most seeds can be collected with a cutter mounted on a long pole.

Each time you collect seeds from a new species, give that species a unique species number.

Nail a numbered, metal tag on to the tree so that you can find it again.

Collect a specimen of leaves and fruits for species identification.

Fill out the seed collection record sheet and label the bag of seeds.

Species number: Batch number:

SEED COLLECTION RECORD SHEET

Family:

Species:

Common name:

Date collected:

Collector's name:

Tree label no.:

Tree girth:

Collected from ground [] or from tree []

Location:

Elevation:

Forest type:

Approximate no. seeds collected:

Storage/transport details:

Pre-sowing treatment:

Sowing date:

Voucher specimen collected []

Notes for herbarium label

