



A Six-Part Program to Develop a Native Plant Material Supply Chain throughout the Mid-Atlantic

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Seed Bank (MARSB) has developed, and seeks funding to deploy, a six-part program to develop the native plant material supply chain for the mid-Atlantic. MARSB recognizes that only by addressing all aspects of the supply chain together can it form, develop, and sustain itself.

1. Identify the Need

Develop ecoregionally based species lists for critical habitats in all mid-Atlantic states; promote their wide use among end users; provide technical assistance to individual end users in understanding their needs.

2. Organize and Focus the Marketplace; Manage Demand

Seek consensus among end users around essential, workhorse species. Focus demand around the most essential species for wide commercial production. Organize and quantify need into an Online Marketplace where supply and demand is easily viewed. Work with government agencies to establish a regional working capital fund to develop NPMs in advance of need.

3. Collect the Seed

Focus seed collection on consensus species for each state of the mid-Atlantic region. Make ecoregional collections; maintain a sustainable supply to feed commercial production.

4. Clean, Bank, and Warehouse the Seed

Build and operate a regional seed cleaning facility, in part as a fee-based cooperative for growers; operate a seed banking and warehousing facility for the region, in part as a fee-based cooperative to end users to hold increased seed at the ready for their defined needs.

5. Support and Develop Suppliers; Assist Growers; Encourage and Support New Growers

Provide technical assistance to established growers on protocols specific to native plant species production; encourage, train, and support a cadre of new growers and their workforce to sustainably enter the marketplace to help meet the demand.

6. Facilitate a Communication Network of all Sectors of the Supply Chain

Run a network to coordinate supply and demand, solve bottleneck issues as they arise, and build a sustainable marketplace adequate to meet on-going and evolving demand.