

**Recent Activities at the Northeast Regional Plant
Introduction Station (NERPIS)**

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The *Lotus* collection at NERPIS continues to grow, slowly but surely. Two additional accessions of *L. corniculatus* were added in the past year. Nine requests for *Lotus* germplasm were received in 1989. Five of the requestors were from U.S. public institutions, two were from U.S. government institutions, and one was from a foreign public institution. A total of 282 *Lotus* accessions were distributed, of these, 252 were *L. corniculatus*. The complete distribution list is shown in the following table.

<u>Species</u>	<u>No. Accessions Distributed</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>No. Accessions Distributed</u>
alpinus	6	japonicus	1
angustissimus	2	ornithopodioides	2
collinus	1	palustris	2
corniculatus	252	pedunculatus	2
creticus	2	purshianus	2
cytisoides	1	tenuis	3
edulis	2	uliginosus	3
glaucus	1		

NERPIS is also continuing to grow, slowly but surely, as additional facilities and equipment are added. At present, we are actively involved in updating and improving our records and adding this information to the Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN), to make GRIN more useful to our user community.

The search for better bee pollinators for use in controlled pollination continues at NERPIS. A preliminary study that used the solitary bee species *Osmia lignaria* as a pollinator of white clover (*Trifolium repens*) confirmed that this species works well and even reproduces in cages, if sufficient resources are available. This bee species should work equally well for pollinating *Lotus*, but this remains to be tested. Additional studies are under way to determine the efficacy of a pheromone-based honey bee attractant on enhancing pollination of forage crops in cages and flight chambers.