

## Activities in the U.S. *Lotus* Germplasm Collection

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Since its inception, the U.S. *Lotus* germplasm collection has been housed at the USDA, ARS Northeast Regional Plant Introduction Station (NERPIS) in Geneva, New York. In February, 1995, the forage crop collections (*Trifolium*, *Lotus*, *Phleum* and miscellaneous minor taxa) were transferred from Geneva, New York to the USDA, ARS Western Regional Plant Introduction Station (WRPIS) in Pullman, Washington. Although seed of the *Lotus* and perennial *Trifolium* collections will be housed and distributed from Pullman, the collections will be managed and regenerated at the Washington State University Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center located at Prosser, Washington. Prosser is located in southeastern Washington, an area conducive to forage legume seed production.

Our regeneration efforts have been focused on regenerating accessions designated in the proposed core subset of *Lotus corniculatus*. This project should be complete following the 1996 season. Collection documentation continues to improve. For accessions with collection sites with known or estimated latitude and longitude values, we are planning to supplement passport data with ecogeographic information obtained from the EPA/NOAA Global Ecosystem Database. This information includes monthly precipitation, % cloudiness, air surface temperature and snow coverage; soil type, texture and slope; and ecoregion classification. Efforts are underway to include this information and additional supplementary passport data into the Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN). GRIN can now be accessed with a Web browser at the USDA National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS) homepage (<http://www.ars-grin.gov>). The Web provides users with an extremely easy format for accessing information. The NPGS homepage provides users with detailed information on the collections and staff. Collections can also be queried to identify accessions with desirable traits, information can be obtained on specific accessions of interest and germplasm can be requested.

Requests for further information on the *Lotus* collection and help in selecting germplasm from the collection can be directed to me:

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