

Seed Receiving and Inspection: The First Step to Protecting Your Nursery from Pests and Pathogens

Why Seed Inspection Matters

Seeds are wonderful little packets of life. Most hold the potential for forests and prairies, but some may also contain the beginnings of a future nightmare.

Inspecting seeds is the first step in preventing the spread of pathogens and pests, both to your nursery and to other sites, including restoration sites or people's gardens.

Save your future-self time, money, and effort, by spending a little time inspecting your seeds today.

Community Impact

Plants started in your nursery often move far beyond it. They may be planted in:

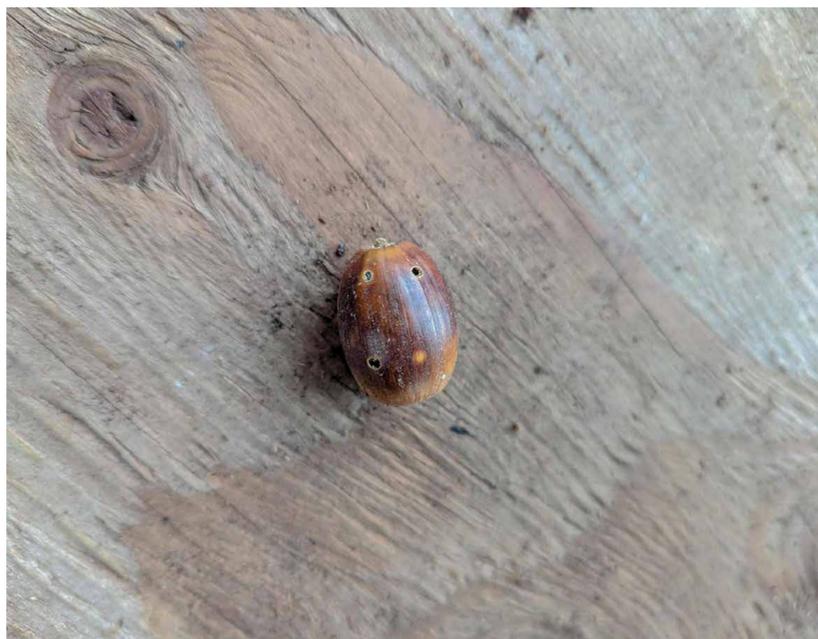
- **RESTORATION SITES**
- **WATERSHED PROJECTS**
- **NEIGHBORING COMMUNITY AND HOME LANDSCAPES**

A sick plant can spread problems far beyond your area. Always monitor your plants for disease and pests.

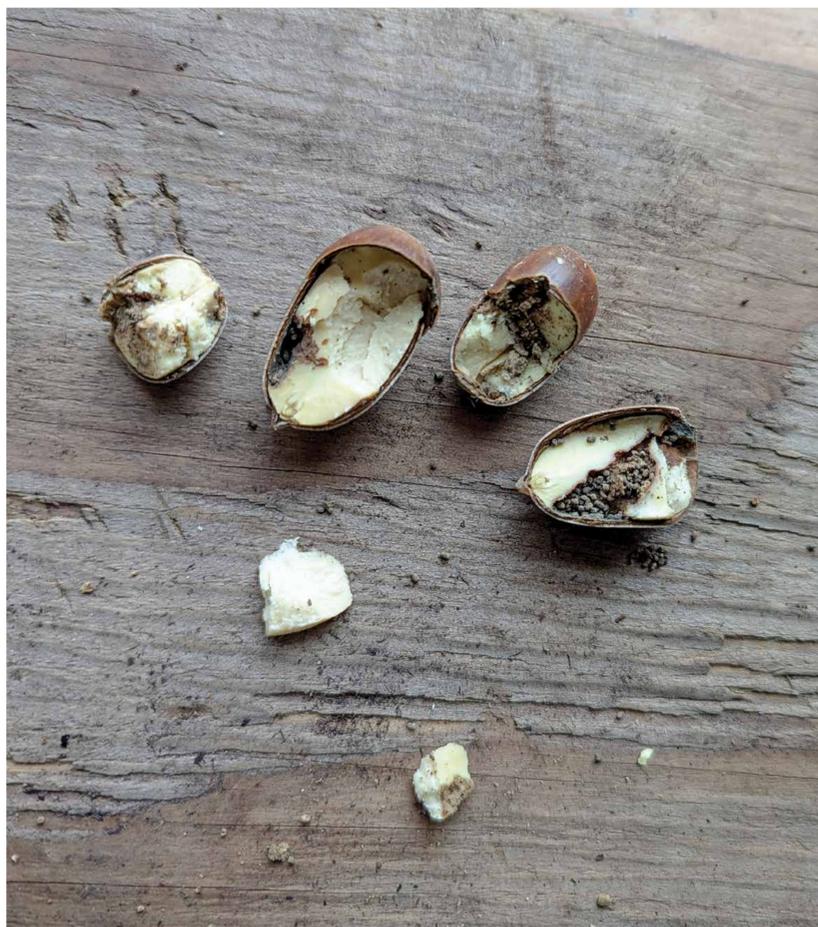
By following seed inspection processes, you are:

- **PROTECTING NATIVE PLANTS**
- **SUPPORTING RESTORATION EFFORTS**
- **SAFEGUARDING SURROUNDING ECOSYSTEMS**

Healthy, pest-free seeds and plants strengthen the environments they are planted in.



Signs of a potential pest observed after opening a received *Quercus garryana* seed package.



After further investigation, staff confirmed that the acorns were infested with acorn weevils and acorn moth caterpillars.

Inspection Process Overview

1. ESTABLISH A SAFE ZONE

- Organize it away from your main growing space
- Inspect freshly received seed materials only in the safe zone

2. INITIAL INSPECTION

- Look for signs of damage, insects, moisture, or mold

3. IF INSECT ACTIVITY IS PRESENT

IDENTIFY THE INSECT.

- Determine whether infestation risk is worth keeping the seeds
- Separate visibly infested seeds from seemingly unharmed seeds
- Destroy infested seeds
- Quarantine undamaged seeds and monitor for activity

IF KEEPING SEEDS:

- Keep in quarantine for as long as possible
- Any seeds sown from this batch should remain in quarantine
- Duration may vary depending on the pest

4. ONGOING MONITORING

- Document any concerns or observations
- Regularly examine seedlings and young plants

5. STORE OR SOW IF THE SEED IS DEEMED SAFE



FULL INSPECTION CHECKLIST