



## Volunteer Role Description

Role title: **Seed collector**

Main purpose of the role: To help with the collection of seeds from sites around the country, following established protocols and collection/storage methods.

	Questions/Issues	Notes
1	<p><b>What?</b> Identifying specimens <i>in situ</i> (may involve walking to difficult locations), carrying out seed collections following established protocols. Returning samples to the lab for processing and storage (post harvest handling) as soon as possible.</p>	
2	<p><b>When?</b> All volunteer hours are appreciated. Collections usually take place on weekdays but may be made at weekends when the opportunity arises. They are planned in advance but are generally weather dependant and so may need to be done with little advance notice.</p>	
3	<p><b>Where?</b> Seed collections are carried out nation-wide. Volunteers can choose the sites they'd prefer to work at. Collections are processed and stored at the lab in Kilclief.</p>	
4	<p><b>With whom?</b> Volunteers will work with other volunteers and THS staff.</p>	
5	<p><b>Support, supervision, training</b> Volunteers will be given full training and staff will provide supervision at collections. Equipment will be supplied by THS.</p>	

6	<p><b>Expenses, etc</b>  Mileage may be paid but volunteers should confirm with the office before commencement. Expenses, if available, are claimed back by completing claim forms available from the coordinator.</p>	
7	<p><b>What the role offers volunteers</b>  This role offers full training in valuable seed collection and conservation skills. Volunteers will be part of a team working together to create Ireland's seed bank.</p>	

## Volunteer Specification

- This is a role that involves being out and about around sites nation-wide. Volunteers can choose where they'd like to help out and which collections they'd like to be involved with.
- The role can be physically demanding, depending on the nature/terrain of the site so a level of fitness is needed. Appropriate clothing and weather protection should be worn.
- Collections are often carried out in teams, in dry weather, however, we would encourage people who are lone working to carry a mobile phone or similar in case of emergency.
- An interest in plants or plant conservation would be ideal. Prior knowledge and experience with working with plants would be beneficial but full training and supervision will be given by THS staff.
- Seed collections can take a full day so volunteers should be able to reliably commit to this amount of time. Advance notice would be appreciated if a volunteer cannot make a previously arranged session. How often volunteers are available for collections is their choice and THS appreciates all volunteer time.
- Own transport would most likely be necessary.
- Mileage expenses, where available, would be claimed retrospectively and claim forms are available from your volunteer coordinator.