

## FGCA Program projects approved in 2024-25

Project	FGCA 2024-C Annual Core Funding	
Association	Forest Gene Conservation Association	
Description	Core Funding	
Funding	\$	141,250.00

Project	FGCA 2024-1 Seed Orchard Management	
Association	Forest Gene Conservation Association	
Description	<p>The FGCA currently manages 3 white pine clonal seed orchards located in southern Ontario and supports the management of 5 white pine clonal seed orchards in partnership with the appropriate Sustainable Forest License holder (Westwind, Bancroft-Minden, Ottawa Valley and Mazinaw-Lanark). All 8 orchards have significant value to the SFLs in the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Forest and for SFL holders beyond the FGCA's current geography. This year activities will include but may not be limited to inventory work, database updates and modifications, map updates, thinning (where appropriate), vegetation management (for ease of access for forecasting and collection), tree labeling, marking, crop forecasting, cone collections and monitoring.</p>	
Funding	\$	56,500.00

Project	FGCA 2024-2 SFL Engagement	
Association	Forest Gene Conservation Association	
Description	<p>Over the past 2 years, the FGCA has been hosting regular and brief meetings with SFL partners in our region to discuss various subjects pertaining to gene conservation, seed orchards, seed, regeneration challenges, species at risk and a number of other topics. The SFLs have expressed interest in continuing these efforts. Not only that, the FGCA team has benefited substantially from these meetings which have improved our understanding of the opportunities and challenges in gene conservation and forest genetic resource management in the Great Lakes St. Lawrence forest. In 2024/2025 we are looking to elevate these meetings by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o bringing in guest speakers (from NRCan, USDA and research and operational partners in the US, other genetic associations, etc.)</li> <li>o delivering more workshop-based meetings (e.g. seed inventory management, navigating seed collectors)</li> <li>o assisting with social media content development that emphasizes gene conservation, genetic diversity and climate change adaptation through sustainable forest management.</li> <li>o having discussions that will lead to future FFT project development (e.g. seed bank management support, climate change adaptation projects, creation of seed production areas or orchard renewal, etc.)</li> <li>o Conducting field visits when possible</li> </ul>	
Funding	\$	22,600.00

Project	FGCA 2024-3 Genetic Installation Management	
Association	Forest Gene Conservation Association	
Description	This project is being proposed to ensure that the proper short and long-term management activities are taking place for various genetic installations created through the FGRM program including, realized gain trials, seed production areas and assisted migration trials. Additionally, this project will allow the FGCA to begin to explore the operational and logistical requirements of creating progeny trials from the white pine seed orchards, and assisted migration trials.	
Funding	\$	22,600.00

Project	FGCA 2024-4 Capacity for Northern Seed Training	
Association	Forest Gene Conservation Association	
Description	The Forest Gene Conservation Association operates Ontario's Natural Selections seed source certification program. The most active element of this program is the Certified Seed Collector course that is offered to individuals looking to be trained on seed quality (genetic and physiological), maintaining source information, tree reproduction and seed biology (in addition to many other items). It is the only program of its kind in Canada and has been sought out by international practitioners. Nurseries, SFLs, ENGOs and many others prefer to obtain seed from those certified than those who are not to ensure source and quality. The FGCA currently has a very large demand for the course in southern Ontario and has garnered interest from organizations in the northern US states. Only recently (in the past 3 years), we have seen an increased demand for the course from northern SFLs. This is due to the fact that the seed collector network in northern Ontario (and across Ontario as a whole) are retiring or are no longer able to collect. This loss of knowledge has a very significant impact on wild seed collection and seed supply for many forests.	
Funding	\$	11,300.00