



United States Department of Agriculture

Research, Education, and Economics
Agricultural Research Service

Citing the U.S. National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS)

When should the NPGS be acknowledged or cited?

Please acknowledge the NPGS as the source of germplasm or data in seminars, public displays, demonstration gardens, reports, proposals, and academic published works. Citations promote repeatable and ethical science with accurate documentation of source materials used in research and breeding. They also help the NPGS document the impact of the germplasm provided.

How to cite the NPGS

1. Refer to our collections as the National Plant Germplasm System crop (i.e. apple, *Malus*, bean, or *Phaseolus*) collection.
2. The accession number is the primary identifier for the germplasm you received. Include the accession number (e.g., PI 000000, Ames 00000, W6 00000, etc.) in publications. Within the text, provide the NPGS accession number, as well as a citation for the NPGS and the germplasm release citation if there is one.
3. Cite the National Plant Germplasm System as the source of the materials:
National Plant Germplasm System, United States Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service. 2025. GRIN-Global. <https://npgsweb.ars-grin.gov/gringlobal/search>
4. Cite a publication about the NPGS such as those listed below.
5. If you publish academic research, please share the citation(s) with the crop curator. Data or images that can be uploaded to GRIN-Global are appreciated as well.

Selected Publications about the U.S. National Plant Germplasm System

Byrne, P. F., Volk, G. M., Gardner, C., Gore, M. A., Simon, P. W., & Smith, S. (2018). Sustaining the future of plant breeding: The critical role of the USDA-ARS National Plant Germplasm System. *Crop Science*, **58**(2), 451-468. <https://doi.org/10.2135/cropsci2017.05.0303>

Volk, G. M., Byrne, P. F., Coyne, C. J., Flint-Garcia, S., Reeves, P. A., & Richards, C. (2021). Integrating genomic and phenomic approaches to support plant genetic resources conservation and use. *Plants*, **10**(11), 2260. <https://doi.org/10.3390/plants10112260>

Bretting, P. K. (2018). 2017 Frank Meyer medal for plant genetic resources lecture: Stewards of our agricultural future. *Crop Science*, **58**(6), 2233-2240. <https://access.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.2135/cropsci2018.05.0334>

Rubenstein, K. D., Smale, M., & Widrechner, M. P. (2006). Demand for genetic resources and the US National Plant Germplasm System. *Crop Science* **46**(3): 1021-1031. <https://doi.org/10.2135/cropsci2005.0129>