The Habitat - native seed and cutting collection guidelines

This guideline has been developed to help preserve the species diversity and ecological sustainability of local remnant bushland and to aid volunteers in meeting Council's expectations.

The seed collected will be used for propagation of native plants for:

- Bushcare projects

- City of Ryde and other Council projects

- Extension of habitat plantings on public and private lands

Permission to collect native seed and cuttings must be obtained from the owners or managers of the land from which the seed or cuttings are collected and it must be in writing. The written document should be carried whenever undertaking a collection.

A licence is required from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (see Appendix A) to collect seed from:

- Species which are listed as protected plants in Schedule 13 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, for example, Epacris purpurascens var purpurascens

- Native plant species or populations which are listed as threatened in NSW. Specific to us Sydney Turpentine – Ironbark Forest and Blue Gum High Forest (both found on shale ridges)

- Native plants belonging to ecological communities which are listed as endangered in NS**W.**

To preserve the species diversity and ecological sustainability of remnant bushland the following issues must be considered when collecting seed or taking cuttings:

- Collect seed or cuttings from multiple plants preferably from diverse locations within the collection area

- With climate change consider collecting from north facing areas in preference to cooler southern areas

- Avoid collecting seed from solitary plants, where possible

- Collect seed only from healthy plants

- Collect only as much seed as required

- Do not unduly damage plants when taking cuttings and seed, again only take what is required

- Where possible only take seed from over or near tracks

- Do not remove more than 10% of the fruit of any one plant or more than 1 % of the overall biomass.

Labeling and tracking

All seed must be clearly labelled with genus and species, collection location and date at the time of collection.

After collection a record is to be made in the appropriate book and a collection number allocated.

Labeling must accompany collections throughout all stages of collection, cleaning, storage, propagation and distribution.

Records must also be kept of quantities sown, potted, media used, survival rates, sale or project, and dates for these activities.

Storage and use

Seed must be cleaned as soon as practical after collection to ascertain the need for appropriate attention. It should be noted what treatment may be required prior to sowing. Seed needs to be stored so as to maximize the life of the seed. It should be noted when seed needs to be used by to avoid loss of viability.

Cuttings should be placed in water as soon after collection as possible to maximize chances of survival.

References

http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/wildlifelicences/CommercialUseOfNativePlants.htm

OEH new Threatened Species website:

http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/

See specifically Pittwater Part B:
http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedSpeciesApp/cmaSearchResults.aspx?SubCmaId=201

Appendix A

The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) website states:

In NSW, native plants are the property of the landholder. However, in the interests of maintaining biodiversity and ecological sustainability, OEH has a statutory responsibility to regulate and coordinate the commercial use of protected and threatened native plant species. These plants consist of:

- species which are listed as protected plants in Schedule 13 of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act (NPWA).
- native plant species or populations, or plants from Endangered Ecological Communities listed under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (TSCA)
- plant species individually listed under the Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBCA).