



*(Shag Bark Hickory)*

### 3. Where does the seed from my property go?

ERCA collaborates with three nurseries and the Ontario Tree Seed Facility. These facilities clean and test the viability of the seed. The nurseries then grow them into the seedlings that ERCA will purchase to re-plant in the region through its restoration program.

### 4. What are my responsibilities?

Once a landowner agrees to participate in our program, they have no further responsibilities or obligations. ERCA staff will advise of any dates that they will be visiting your site, and are protected under ERCA's insurance policy.



### 5. Why is it important?

The Essex Region has some of the most biodiverse habitats in Canada, but they are not abundant and are fragmented. It is important to ensure the integrity of the native species trees and shrubs that we plant in our region to increase green space, provide habitat, and improve the health of our region and its residents.

### 6. Where are the trees planted?

ERCA undertakes large-scale restoration programs on public lands and within conservation areas. We also partner with landowners to plant trees, create prairie and meadow habitat and wetlands. There are grants available to help landowners offset the costs of these programs. If you are interested in learning more, please contact us.

### 7. How can I participate?

If you are interested in helping to create a legacy of environmental sustainability for the Essex Region, please contact:

Ed Van Osch  
Phone: 519-776-5209 (ext. 377)  
Email: [evanosch@erca.org](mailto:evanosch@erca.org)  
Web: [www.erca.org](http://www.erca.org)



## Tree Seed Collection



*(Chinquapin Oak)*





*(Bur Oak)*

Since 1973, Essex Region Conservation has been striving to enrich and sustain the Windsor-Essex-Peel Island region as the Place for Life. We have planted more than 6 million trees, and have increased natural areas coverage from less than 3% to more than 8.5% by planting at least 100,000 trees each year.

For the past decade, ERCA has partnered with landowners to collect high quality seeds from the target species that are best suited to our Carolinian zone (Zone 38). These include Hickory, Oak, Maple and Sycamore trees, and Dogwood, Nannyberry and Elderberry shrubs. Our partner nurseries then grow the seeds into small trees. After a period of 1 – 3 years, ERCA buys these seedling trees back to plant in our region, ensuring the most tolerant and best-adapted species are used for restoration projects, providing the best chance for the trees to flourish.

### **Why my trees?**

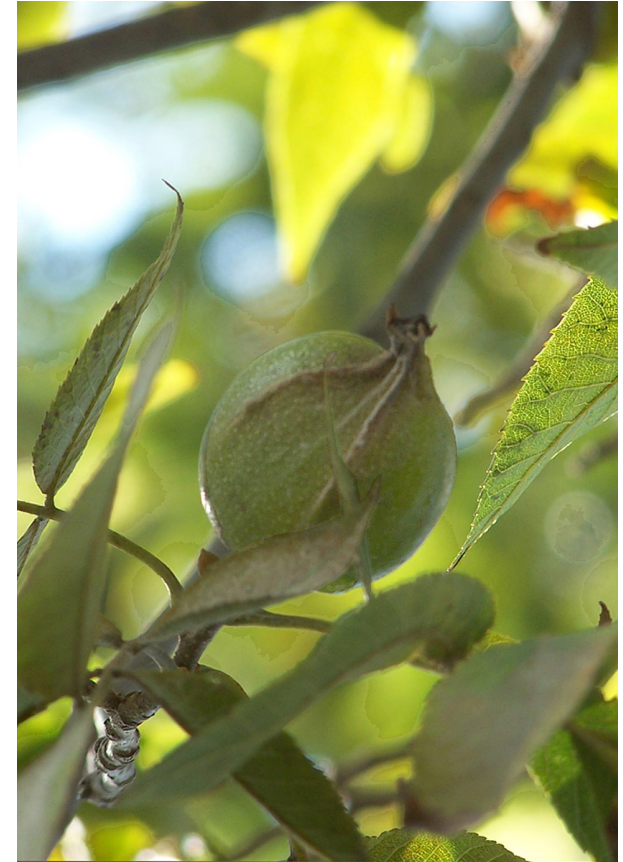
In order to achieve the best results possible, ERCA collects seeds from a variety of sources. In addition to collecting seed from its own conservation areas, ERCA partners with private landowners to ensure that an appropriate diversity of high quality seed can be collected.

### **How does the program work?**

1. Contact landowner for permission to access private property.
2. Identify trees and shrubs that produce high quality seed.
3. Test seed viability.
4. Collect only the highest quality seed.
5. Clean, measure and ship the seed to partner nurseries.

### **Target Species**

Trees: Hickory, Oak, Maple, Sycamore  
Shrubs: Dogwoods, Nannyberry, Elderberry



*(Bitternut Hickory)*

### **Frequently asked questions:**

#### **1. Why does ERCA need access to my trees periodically through the year?**

Seed crops can change rapidly. ERCA seed collectors will visit your property several times throughout the year to track the health of the trees and the development of the seed. This allows ERCA to predict the availability of high quality mature seed for collection.

#### **2. Why does ERCA want to collect seed from my trees some years and not others?**

Trees produce different amounts of healthy seed every year. Seed availability depends on a number of environmental factors such as late frosts in the spring, drought or insect damage.