

## **Joining forces to support conservation of exceptional tree species in the United States**

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American Public Gardens Association and the United States Forest Service are working together to safeguard tree species native to U.S. forests which cannot be conserved through traditional seed banking methods. Our Tree Gene Conservation Partnership awards matching grants to Association members to support collaborative projects which scout and collect targeted taxa in wild populations, then distribute propagules among public gardens for safeguarding in living collections. This partnership launched in 2015 has awarded over US\$300,000 in grants contributing to the conservation of 43 tree species in 25 states and Puerto Rico. Diverse collaborations among over 70 public gardens, state and federal agencies, universities, forest industry, and conservation alliances have participated in the partnership.