

# Strategic Priorities and Actions to Conserve North America's Crop Wild Relatives and Wild Utilized Plants



1

Understand, document, assess threats to natural habitats, and determine gaps in conservation.

## Actions

- Conservation and population genetics
- Conservation status assessments
- Ecology
- Ethnobotany, biocultural, pharmacology
- Phytogeography, floristics
- Species biology
- Systematics and taxonomy
- Other conservation activities (e.g., surveying)

2

Protect in natural habitats.

## Actions

- Fire management
- Indigenous and local guidance
- Invasive species management
- Land acquisition
- Land manager collaboration
- Policy (state or federal)
- Species reintroduction, ecological restoration
- Species monitoring

3

Collect and conserve in *ex situ* collections.

## Actions

- Collections back-up
- Collections documentation
- Genetic diversity management
- Germplasm acquisition
- Prioritization and gap analysis
- Recollection, regeneration
- Seed viability monitoring

4

Make accessible and attractive to plant breeders, researchers, and educators.

## Actions

- Collections information sharing
- Collection-value promotion
- Contributions to genebanks
- Germplasm evaluation
- Germplasm provision to others
- Pre-breeding/breeding
- Prioritization of ethnobotanical and Indigenous knowledge

5

Raise public awareness of their value and the threats to their persistence.

## Actions

- Community outreach programs
- Courses, tours, events, or lectures
- Media outreach
- Preservation of ethnobotanical and Indigenous knowledge
- Publications
- Public interpretation
- Social media or website content
- Student or academic projects

These five priorities are interdependent and require collaborative, coordinated efforts (Khoury et al., 2019).

