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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

There are two major genebanks in North America that preserve *Fragaria* genetic resources. One is located in Harrow, Ontario, Canada, while the other is in Corvallis, Oregon, United States. Both are under the auspices of the federal government organizations in their respective countries. The Canadian Clonal Genebank (CCG) is under the jurisdiction of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) while the National Clonal Germplasm Repository (NCGR) is part of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS).

## **2. PROGRAM AND MANDATE**

### **Canada**

Plant Gene Resources of Canada was created in 1970 to serve as the national crop genetic resource system for Canada. Because the Canadian government recognized that the worldwide genepools of crop plants and their wild relatives were being increasingly and seriously eroded, it acted to protect and preserve the vast genetic diversity for future generations. In 1989, the CCG was officially established at the existing Smithfield Experimental Farm in Trenton, Ontario. In 1996, Smithfield closed as a result of program review and consolidation, and the Clonal Genebank was transferred to Harrow, Ontario. The mandate of the CCG is to protect and preserve the genetic diversity of Canadian fruit crop plants and their wild relatives. To do this, plant genetic resources are acquired, maintained, evaluated and documented in order to provide the fundamental genetic building blocks for crop variety development and plant genetic studies nationally and internationally. The genera maintained include: *Asimina*, *Fragaria*, *Malus*, *Prunus*, *Pyrus*, *Ribes*, *Rubus*, *Sambucus*, and *Vaccinium*.

### **United States**

The United States national plant germplasm system (NPGS) is a network of cooperating institutions, agencies, and research units in the federal, state, and private sectors (Shands *et al.*, 1989). The U.S. Congressional Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 authorized working collections to be established at four federal regional plant introduction stations (RPIS) and at Fort Collins, Colorado. Subsequently congressional funding was increased to establish ten NCGRs, to preserve clonally or vegetatively propagated crops. The NCGR-Corvallis was established in 1981 to preserve *Corylus*, *Fragaria*, *Humulus*, *Mentha*, *Pyrus*, *Ribes*, *Rubus*, *Vaccinium*, and other specialty crops.