

W6 RTAC Annual Meeting
11 July 2023
California Report
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In 2022, 49 orders were placed by 40 scientists in California for germplasm from the W-6 repository. The numbers are slightly down from 2021. By way of comparison, in 2019, 104 orders were placed by 74 scientists. The reasons for declining numbers of requests are unknown but could represent a lingering effect of the pandemic.

The 2022 orders were split among commercial companies (23), US universities and colleges (7), Non-profit research organizations (6), federal agencies (4). The intended uses for the germplasm were primarily varietal and germplasm development or genetics research; a few orders included educational objectives.

I have been a large user of the germplasm collections of alfalfa and other *Medicago* species throughout my 35+ year career. In 2023, I received a NIFA-AFRI grant that depended entirely upon access to the diploid alfalfa germplasm resources maintained at W-6. Access to other alfalfa germplasm resources has been instrumental in developing a multi-location pre-breeding project that I have led for the past seven years. New breeding populations developed from those germplasm accessions have been and are being developed in conjunction with Brian Irish, the alfalfa germplasm curator, and will be deposited in the NPGS system. Speaking for the alfalfa germplasm community, I can unequivocally attest to the value of germplasm resources maintained at W-6.