

SAV Restoration Quick Start Guide

If you or your organization are interested in a submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV, or Bay grasses) restoration project, this summary guide will give you a sense of what is involved in the planning and executing of such an effort. If you think you are ready to move forward, check out “Small-scale SAV Restoration in Chesapeake Bay” for everything you need to know!

1

Understand the Rules and Regulations

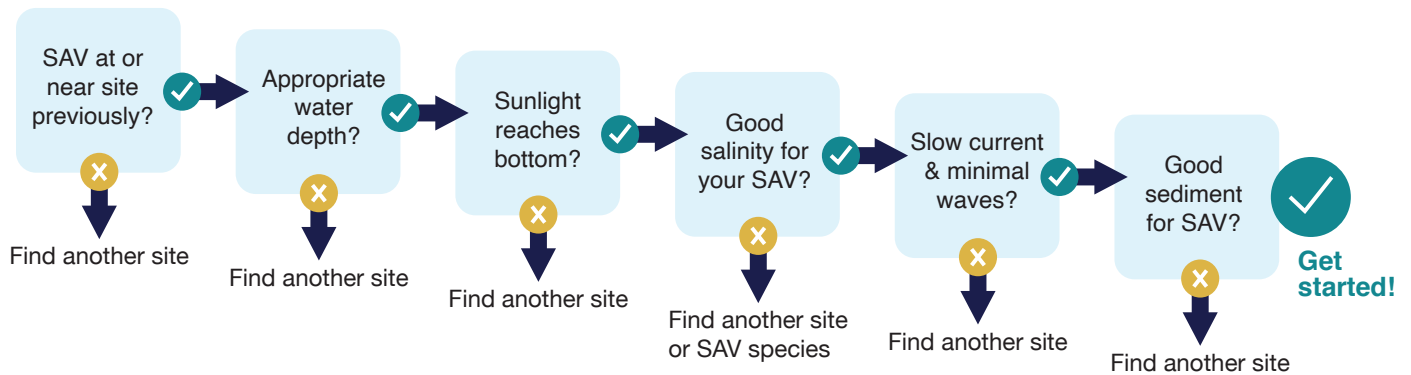
In the tidal Chesapeake, your project could be in Maryland, Washington DC, or Virginia waters. The rules about harvesting and planting SAV vary by location; see full guide for contacts, permitting details, and more.

Permit needed for:	Harvesting seeds	Harvesting plants	Planting grasses
Maryland	✓	✓	✗
District of Columbia	✗	✓	✗
Virginia	✗	✓	✓

2

Select Your Restoration Site

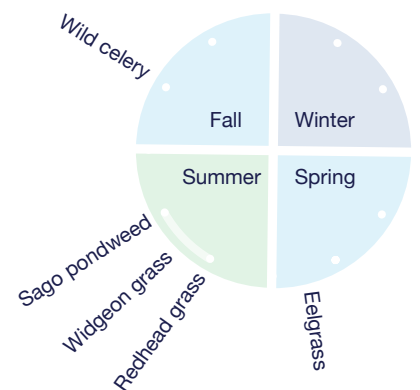
In order to ensure the best chances for success, you should choose a restoration site that meets the requirements below. If you aren't sure if your site meets the requirements, see the full guide for information on how to check.



3

Collect Seeds and Plants

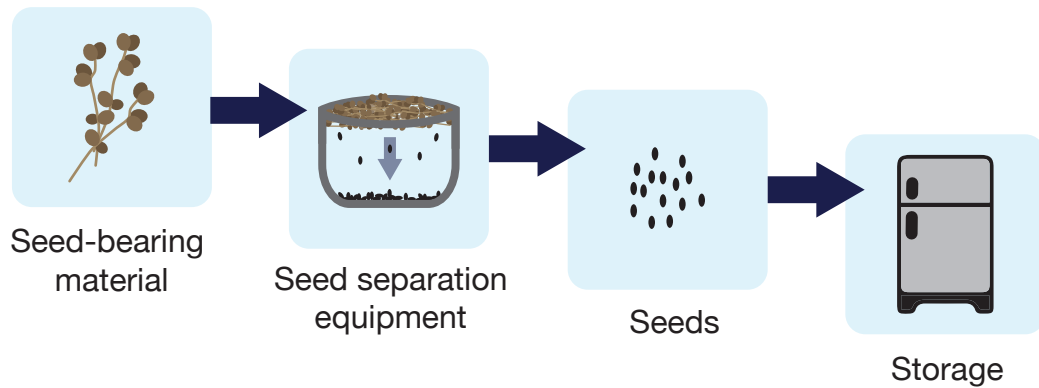
The time for harvesting seeds from SAV growing in the Bay varies by species, as illustrated in the seed harvest calendar to the right. If you are transplanting whole plants, they can be harvested at any time during the growing season.



4

Process and Store Seeds

Seeds must be separated from seed pods and other plant material. They must then be stored at the proper temperature and salinity to keep them viable and prevent them from germinating before they are planted.



5

Plant Your SAV Bed

When the time is right, broadcast the seeds from a boat or by wading through the water. Whole plants must be planted manually to ensure their roots become established.



6

Monitor Your SAV Bed

Check back often to see how your SAV is doing. Make note of areas where growth is better or worse to guide future restoration work.

