

## FABIAN ON NORTH AMERICAN FIELD TRIP TO COLLECT SAMPLES

In between attending the IMC11 and ICPP 2018 conferences, Dr Irene Barnes visited Dr Jim Walla at Northern Tree Specialties in Fargo, North Dakota. The visit included a four-day expedition around North Dakota covering some 2000 km to investigate and sample for needle diseases of pine in planted, natural and urban areas. Symptom expression was perfect for this time of year and diseases observed included Diplodia shoot blight, Dothistroma needle blight and Stigmina needle cast of spruce.



A challenging full-day hike led us to the remote, native stands of limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*) to investigate a recently emerged needle blight disease affecting this species. It is anticipated that several publications will come out of this fruitful collection trip and collaboration. Other highlights of the trip included seeing prairie dogs, wild horses, bison, a rattlesnake and tasting some delicious homemade American partridge stew and blueberry pie.