



## *Did You Know...*

- We have selected over 500 releases of improved conservation plants. Over 300 of these releases are available commercially today and are applied to a variety of conservation uses. Cumulative economic benefits of this work are in the hundreds of millions of dollars.
- We provide plant recommendations and technology for many of the Farm Bill Programs, including the Conservation Reserve Program, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, and the Wetlands Reserve Program.
- The plant releases and technology we develop are incorporated into the Field Office Technical Guides and become standards for conservation practices implemented on public and private lands. More than 70% of this technical information and recommendations have come from Plant Materials.
- We work with some of the most current environmental issues such as using a native plant approach to conservation work, controlling noxious and invasive plants, and protecting threatened and endangered species.

## *For More Information...*

Visit the USDA NRCS Plant Materials Program website at:

<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>

For information on solving conservation problems using plants, look for the following on our site:

- Uses, Establishment and Maintenance of Conservation Plant Species (Plant Fact Sheets)
- Information on where to obtain Conservation Plants
- Improved Conservation Plant Materials developed by our Program
- Publications and literature on the use of Improved Plant Releases and the development of new or improved techniques
- The role of the National Plant Materials Program in supporting National Conservation Initiatives and Farm Bill Programs
- Technology Development and Activities at our 26 Plant Materials Centers

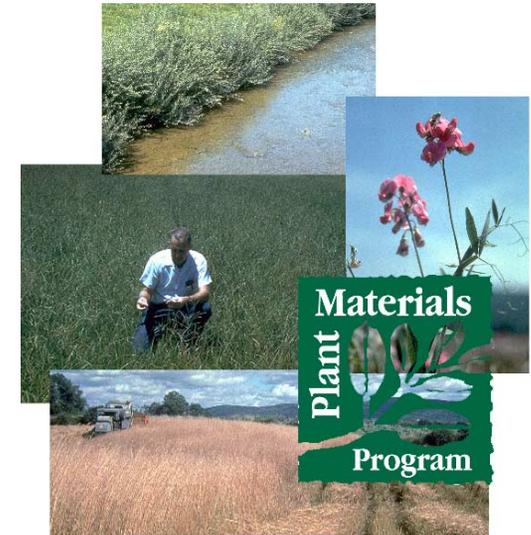
August 2001

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## National Plant Materials Program



## *Vegetative Solutions to Conservation Problems*

## History and Mission of the Program

In the 1930s a number of Soil Conservation Nurseries were built throughout the country to grow and distribute plants for the stabilization of severely eroding lands. Over the past 60 years the need for improved plants has continued and evolved into the Plant Materials Program of the 1990s.

Today our Program includes 26 Plant Materials Centers (PMCs) and 17 Plant Materials Specialists located nationwide to service all 50 states and territories. Our present focus includes not only the selection and production of improved plants for conservation, but also the development and transfer of technology necessary to maximize the success of conservation plantings and to protect our environment in a healthy way.



## Today's Plant Materials Program:

- develops and transfers plant technology for the conservation of our Nation's natural resources
- seeks to address the needs of field offices and land managers in both the public and private sectors
- transfers our technology by working with NRCS Field Offices and other cooperators to apply new conservation methods using plants
- impacts a number of National Conservation Initiatives and Farm Bill Programs by providing species and technology recommendations for these programs
- focuses on using native plants as a healthy way to solve conservation problems and protect ecosystems
- works with a broad range of species, including grasses, legumes, forbs/wildflowers, trees, and shrubs

## Plant Materials Centers Combine Talents with other Agencies

PMCs may be owned or operated by federal, state, or local government, though most are owned and operated by NRCS. All PMCs work closely with many agencies at all levels of the government. Although the nature and of the cooperative relations vary, ongoing activities exist between each PMC and the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of the Interior-National Park Service, U.S. Department of Defense, State Agricultural Experiment Stations, State Crop Improvement Associations, Conservation Districts, and other partners.

## Location and Service Areas of Plant Materials Centers

