



# Plants for Conservation



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Volume 2 No. 2, Fall 1998

## The State Conservationists' Advisory Committee Meeting

A teleconference was conducted for the advisory committee meeting on October 28, 1998 to review the Elsberry Plant Materials operation and studies. The advisory committee approved two recommendations from the Missouri State Plant Materials Committee for collection of the following woody species:

### Approved Studies:

\* To continue the **black haw** (*Virburnum prunifolium*) collection by asking field offices to participate in seed collections in 1999. This species occurs in bottomland woods, along streams, on dry upper slopes of ravines, and in thickets. It occurs in all three states in the service area. Look for more information to be distributed in 1999.

\* To initiate **swamp dogwood** (*Cornus obliqua*) collection by asking field offices to participate in seed collection in 1999 from the three states. This species occurs in wet areas, prairies, swampy meadows, wet thickets, swamps and bottomland woodlands. It occurs in all three states in the service area. Look for more information to be distributed in 1999.

### Potential Studies:

Permission was given by the advisory committee to investigate study proposals of studies for the following species:

**Bead grass** (*Paspalum spp.*) - a native warm season species for forage used especially in wet areas.

**Crabgrass** (*Digitaria spp.*) - an introduced naturalized warm season annual species for late summer forage

**Prairie cordgrass** (*Spartina pectinata*) - a native warm season wetland species. Testing germination and a seed source from individual collections received from each state.

**Establishing warm season grasses with a companion crop**, using herbicides for weed control, and producing a cash crop during the establishment time of the warm season grass.

Approval by the State Conservationists' Advisory Committee for these potential studies will be based on study plans developed and if the plant materials staff and partners priority workload will allow these additional studies.

### Attention Missouri Seed Growers: Missouri Ecotype Seed for 1999

*Potential seed release in 1999 for the following species:*

Source Identified Big Bluestem - North Missouri River Region  
Source Identified Little Bluestem -North Missouri River Region  
Source Identified Indiangrass -North Missouri River Region  
Source Identified Indiangrass -Osage Plains  
Missouri growers interested in an application can contact the Elsberry Plant Materials Center at 573 898-2012. Complete and return this application for approval. Seed will be approved based on supply available.

## 1998 Plant Materials Releases

Five species were released from the Elsberry PMC. The following material was provided to Iowa seed growers as source-identified releases.

1. Rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), Zone 1, Northern Iowa
2. Rigid goldenrod (*Solidago rigida*), Zone 1, Northern Iowa
3. Purple prairie clover (*Dalea purpurea*), Zone 2, Central Iowa
4. Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) Zone 3, Southern Iowa
5. Big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), Zone 2, Central Iowa

### Attention Iowa Seed Growers: Iowa Source Identified Seed for 1999

This winter species will be determined for release following harvesting, and cleaning. For an application on the Iowa source identified seed, Iowa growers should contact the UNI Roadside office at 319-273-2813.

### Attention Seed Growers: Foundation Seed Available

Do you need to reestablish or increase your seed production fields? Several native warm season grass species are available. Foundation seed can be requested for the following varieties.

'Cave-In-Rock' switchgrass  
'Rumsey' indiangrass  
'Rountree' big bluestem

You can request seed by contacting the Elsberry Plant Materials Center at 573 898-2012. An application will be sent to you. Complete and return this application for approval. Seed will be approved based on supply available.

### Thanks to Field Offices

Thank you for requesting to participate in testing future releases from your state long range field planting plan. Requests will be approved based on materials available after the Plant Materials Center processes, cleans, and tests the seed materials. Field offices approved will be notified this winter.

Thanks to those field offices completing and returning the plant materials field evaluation forms. The data submitted provides us with a better understanding of the adaptation and performance in a field planting test. **We appreciate your assistance!**

### Missouri Ecotype Enhancement Program

The purpose of the Missouri Ecotype enhancement Program is to collect seeds from desired species in defined eco-zones within Missouri. At this time we are focusing our efforts on twelve species from north of the

Missouri river and four from the Osage plains. The seeds collected from scattered locations in each zone are brought to the PMC. The collections are mixed and species are grown separately from the same species brought in from other zones. In a year or two we can release these seeds to the public as unimproved native genotypes from their own eco-zone.

The uses for these seeds are diverse. They can be used for prairie restoration, wildlife habitat, crop enhancement, livestock pastures, roadside beautification, and landscaping.

At this time we are busy cleaning these collections for winter dormant and spring plantings at the Elsberry PMC to increase seed.

Because of limited staffing for this project, additional assistance is needed from the field to meet the goals of this project. If you are interested in helping, keep a lookout for the following species. *An update with additional species needed for this project will follow next summer.*

### Looking for Information on Vegetative Solutions to Conservation Problems?

Visit the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (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
- \*Conservation plant materials developed and released by our program
- \*Publications and literature on the use of 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
- \*Links to websites with additional or supporting information

### Species currently being collected for the Missouri Ecotype Program

| Scientific Nomenclature        | Common Name            | Region |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------|
| <i>Echinacea pallida</i>       | pale purple coneflower | NMR/OP |
| <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>      | butterfly milkweed     | NMR    |
| <i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>    | tall gayfeather        | NMR    |
| <i>Lespedeza capitata</i>      | roundhead bush clover  | NMR    |
| <i>Coreopsis palmata</i>       | prairie coreopsis      | NMR/OP |
| <i>Dalea purpurea</i>          | purple prairie clover  | NMR/OP |
| <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>      | Indiangrass            | NMR/OP |
| <i>Elymus virginicus</i>       | Virginia wildrye       | NMR    |
| <i>Sporobolus asper</i>        | tall dropseed          | NMR    |
| <i>Andropogon gerardii</i>     | big bluestem           | NMR    |
| <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> | little bluestem        | NMR    |

**Region Key: NMR=North of Missouri River; OP=Osage Plains**

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