



## Upcoming New Woody Releases

The PMC is presently evaluating assemblies of American hazelnut, wild plum, and arrowwood that were planted on the PMC in 1994. These assemblies have been evaluated for fruiting, rate of growth, insect and disease resistance and form. Selections were made out of each assembly and placed in the Plant Materials Field Planting Program. This will provide off site evaluations to be made and analyzed to better determine the areas of adaptation for each species. Current plans are to release three selections each of the wild plum and American hazelnut and one selection of arrowwood as Tested Class Germplasm releases in 2003 and 2004. The American hazelnut will not only be used for windbreaks and wildlife food and habitat; but also used in agro-forestry plantings.



**AMERICAN HAZELNUT SELECTION**



**IOWA SELECTION OF SOUTHERN ARROWWOOD**



**AMERICAN PLUM SELECTION**



**AMERICAN PLUM FRUIT**

## Plant Identification ID Online

Do you want to impress your friends and neighbors with your knowledge of plant identification? If so, then go to the plant materials website and click on Conservation Plant Identification. The PMC has placed a publication entitled Conservation Plant Pocket ID Guide on the plant materials website for use not only by NRCS field personnel, but also for use by anyone interested in learning more about different grasses, forbs, and legumes. This publication was developed with assistance of the PMC. Over a thousand copies have been printed and shared with NRCS persons and the general public. To access this publication follow these steps: Go to <http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>, click on Conservation Plant Identification in the box to the right of the screen under Tools, click on Conservation Plant Pocket ID Guide.

## 2001 Plant Releases

The Elsberry PMC in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Conservation and the National Audubon Society – Audubon Missouri have released the following source identified native ecotypes in 2001: Northern Missouri Prairie Coreopsis, Western Missouri Prairie Coreopsis, Northern Missouri Tall Dropseed, Northern Missouri Pale Purple Coneflower, and Western Missouri Pale Purple Coneflower.

These plants will be used for prairie and roadside plantings, prairie landscaping, plantings for wildlife food and habitat, and for critical area cover.

The objective of the program is developing source identified native plant releases to increase availability of native grasses, forbs, and legumes to landowners at affordable prices.

## **Wear Tolerance Study at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri**

The Elsberry Plant Materials Center conducted an evaluation of plants for wear tolerance (foot and vehicle traffic) with the U.S. Department of Army from 1997 to 2000. Four sites were selected for the tests: barracks, bivouac, shooting range and TA 244 (severely disturbed area from tank traffic). The following is a listing of locations and the best performing plants on the respective sites: Barracks, 'Tufcote' bermudagrass; Bivouac, 'Covar' sheep fescue and 'SR 3100' hard fescue; Shooting range, 'Top Gun' buffalograss; and 'TA-244', a disturbed upland site, 'Cimarron' little bluestem. A 25-page summary of the total study with recommendations can be accessed from the 2000 Annual Technical Report at [http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov/Publication MO-PMC](http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov/Publication/MO-PMC), then PMC ATR.



BARRACKS



TA-244



SHOOTING RANGE



BIVOUAC

## **Eastern Gamagrass Study**

Elsberry is one of several PMC's evaluating eastern gamagrass for forage production. The evaluation is in cooperation with the Southern Plains Range Research Station (SPRRS). This is a USDA Agriculture Research Service facility at Woodward, Oklahoma.

The evaluation is comparing eight different accessions. Three accessions are from Elsberry, four from the SPRRS, and the eighth is the variety 'Pete', used as the standard of comparison.

Forage production data taken the first year after establishment shows one Elsberry accession and one SPRRS accession showing much higher yields than the standard of comparison.

## **Plant Identification Study**

The Elsberry PMC has initiated a study to explore taking digital photos of native seed and seedlings of warm and cool season grasses, native forbs and legumes. Digital photos will also be taken of plants at approximately seven, 14, and 30 days after germination, at flowering and at seed set. A total of four warm season, five cool season, five legumes and 17 forbs are involved in this study. These photos will illustrate different characteristics of plant specimens. All the photos will be organized into a plant ID Guide that is internet accessible. The purpose of developing this plant identification guide is to assist landowners and NRCS field personnel in identification of seedlings, matured plants, and developing powerpoint presentations at plant identification workshops which are held in the PMC service area.

## Proposed Release of Cuivre River Virginia Wildrye

The Elsberry PMC is planning the release of Virginia wildrye during the summer of 2002. This selection was found growing in a native stand in Eastern Lincoln County, Missouri near Cuivre River. Virginia wildrye is a native cool season perennial bunchgrass growing to a height of about three feet. It can be found growing in moist prairies, woodlands, lowland as well as sandy areas. As implied by the species name, it is also found in the eastern portion of the tallgrass prairie and east to the seacoast. Virginia wildrye is palatable and makes good forage and hay. It furnishes fall and spring pasture for livestock. Sometimes it is seeded in warm season grass mixtures to extend grazing seasons. It can be established in pure stands in early fall for winter pastures. This selection has been placed in field testing programs to obtain additional information on adaptation.



CUIVRE RIVER VIRGINIA WILDRYE

## Weather Records

The PMC has been taking weather data since it opened in 1934 and is one of the oldest National Weather Service data collection sites in the state. Below is a table that shows how 2001 compared to the long-term average for temperature and precipitation.

### 2001 Weather Data Elsberry PMC

Precipitation (Inches)			
Month	2001	71 Yr Ave	Depart.
January	2.16	1.86	+0.30
February	4.45	2.00	+2.45
March	1.19	3.15	-1.96
April	1.91	3.68	-1.77
May	3.65	3.95	-0.30
June	4.68	3.79	+0.89
July	7.16	3.44	+3.72
August	6.16	3.33	+2.83
September	3.07	3.32	-0.25
October	5.55	2.99	+2.56
November	3.04	2.89	+0.15
December	2.64	2.47	+0.17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45.66</b>	<b>36.87</b>	<b>+8.79</b>

### Monthly Average Temperature (F<sup>0</sup>)

Month	2001	69 Yr Ave	Depart.
January	27.34	28.14	-0.18
February	33.65	32.92	+0.73
March	39.94	45.50	-5.56
April	61.40	54.61	+6.79
May	66.76	67.22	-0.46
June	72.07	79.02	-6.95
July	78.58	77.58	+1.00
August	76.76	75.46	+1.30
September	66.53	67.65	-1.12
October	55.86	56.63	-0.77
November	49.47	43.42	+6.05
December	38.03	32.52	+5.51
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>55.53</b>	<b>55.06</b>	<b>+0.53</b>

Lowest temperature in 2001 was -12<sup>0</sup>F on January 2. Highest temperature in 2001 was 100<sup>0</sup>F on July 23.

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