



### Did You Know...

- ❖ We have selected over 500 releases of improved conservation plants. Over 400 of these releases are commercially available 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 2002 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 NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) and become standards for conservation practices implemented on public and private lands. Over 70 percent of the plant species listed in the FOTG were selected by the Plant Materials Program.
- ❖ We find solutions for 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:

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

For information on solving conservation problems using plants, look for the following on our Web 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 Plant Materials Program in supporting national conservation initiatives and Farm Bill programs
- ❖ Technology development and activities at our 26 Plant Materials Centers

**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
**Mission Statement:** The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

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## Plant Materials Program



## Plant Solutions for Conservation Needs



## History and Mission

The 1930s Dust Bowl taught us that plants play a critical role in the health of our environment. At that time, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) created a number of Soil Conservation Nurseries throughout the country to grow and distribute plants for the stabilization of severely eroding lands. Over the past 65 years, this need for conservation plants has grown into the present day Plant Materials Program.

The program currently includes 26 Plant Materials Centers (PMCs) and 17 Plant Materials Specialists located nationwide to service all 50 states and territories. PMCs may be owned or operated by federal, state or local government, but most are owned and operated by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

PMCs and Plant Materials Specialists cooperate with an array of public and private conservation partners to select and produce improved plants for conservation. They also develop and transfer the state-of-the-art technology necessary for successful conservation plantings that prevent soil erosion and improve air and water quality.

## Today's Plant Materials Program

Many of today's environmental problems can be addressed effectively through the use of plants. The Plant Materials Program:

- ❖ Focuses on using native plants as a natural way to solve conservation problems and protect ecosystems.
- ❖ Collects, selects, and produces a broad range of species, including grasses, legumes, forbs, wildflowers, trees, and shrubs.
- ❖ Cooperates with a variety of public and private conservation partners and land managers to apply new conservation methods using plants.
- ❖ Provides plant materials and new technology for a number of national conservation initiatives, including the 2002 Farm Bill.
- ❖ Offers plant solutions to repair damage from natural disasters, prevent noxious weed invasion, and assist with wildfire restoration and a host of other natural resource challenges.

## Location and Service Areas of Plant Materials Centers

