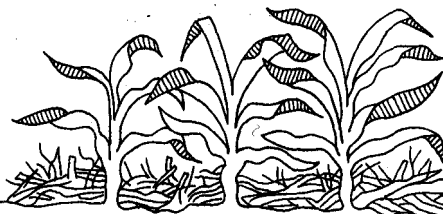


FACT SHEET

Americus Plant Materials Center



Americus, Georgia



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Soil
Conservation
Service

January 1988

Purpose

The Americus Plant Materials Center (PMC) is part of a national plant materials program operated by the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS). The purpose of the PMC is to assemble, evaluate and release new plant materials for conservation use.

The Americus PMC serves Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee and parts of North Florida. These states present a wide range of climatic and soil conditions.

The Center serves a total of 13 major land resource areas (MLRA's) which represent 120,377,913 acres across the Southeastern United States.

History

The Americus PMC was established in 1936 to produce planting material, mainly pine seedlings, for use by the CCC Camps and the former SCS demonstration projects. It is located four miles northwest of Americus, Georgia. The site was originally rented, but was purchased by the Federal Government in 1942.

The Center contains seven soil types, with Orangeburg predominating on its 327.39 acres. Approximately two-thirds of the land is open for cultivation. Muckalee Creek runs through the southwest corner, furnishing water for irrigation.

The Center was operated on contract by the University of Georgia Experiment Stations from 1954 to 1975. The SCS has operated the Center since 1976.

Conservation Problems and Priorities

There are over 120 million acres of land in the MLRA's served by the Americus PMC. To guide the activities of the PMC, a 5-year long-range program is developed. In 1985 this program was revised and identified these high priority projects:

1. Legumes to be used in conservation tillage.
2. Plants for conversion of marginal cropland to less intensive uses.
3. Plants for establishing waterways, water disposal areas and similar critical areas on cropland.
4. Plants to control gully erosion on cropland.

PMC Facilities

The real property holdings at the facility consist of 327.39 acres of land with 15 buildings, an underground irrigation system that covers about 85 acres, a water supply system, and a sewage disposal system. The facility was established in 1936, and some of the buildings constructed at that time are still in use.

Formal Releases

The Americus PMC has released the following plants for conservation use:

GRASSES

Common Name

'Dove' Proscio Millet
'Pensacola' Bahiagrass

Scientific Name

Panicum miliaceum
Paspalum notatum

LEGUMES AND FORBS

Common Name

'Ambro' Virgata lespedeza
'Amclo' Arrowleaf clover
'Amquail' Thunberg lespedeza

Scientific Name

Lespedeza virgata
Trifolium vesiculosum
Lespedeza thunbergii

WOODY

Common Name

'Ellagood' Autumn olive

Scientific Name

Elaeagnus umbellata

Informal Releases

GRASSES

Common Name

'Nakura' Rescuegrass
'Asheville' Tall fescue
'Tombigbee' Chickencorn
'Wild' Sudangrass

Scientific Name

Bromus unioloides
Festuca arundinacea
Sorghum bicolor
Sorghum sudanense

LEGUMES AND FORBS

Common Name

'Dadeville' Yellow vetch

Scientific Name

Vicia lutea

WOODY

Common Name

'Athens' Sawtooth oak

Scientific Name

Quercus acutissima

Proposed Releases

GRASSES

Common Name

Marshhay cordgrass
Fescue

scientific Name

Spartina patens
Festuca

Outside Utilization of PMC

The following is a partial list of groups that have toured the Center in the last two years:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Alabama Area Conservationists	Review Plant Materials (PM) program for Ala/Ga
Alabama SCS Principal Staff	Tour projects at PMC
Erosion & Sediment Control Workshop Training	Update the role of PM in erosion control
Georgia DNR Biologists	Examine wildlife plants
Georgia PM Committee	PM Committee Meetings
Local District Conservationists	Legume training
Mississippi PM Personnel	Review PMC operations
South NTC Biologist	Biology study of PMC
Stephens Co. Dist. Youth Board	Update on PMC collections
Sumter County 4th Grade	School field trip
Sumter Co. High School Students	"Career Awareness Week"
Tuskegee University	Review Conservation structures at PMC
UGA Researchers	Evaluate possible road bank plants
Wildlife Extension Specialist	Update on PMC collection

Major Assemblies and Evaluations

Since 1983 to present, the PMC has assembled and evaluated the following major plant groups:

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>
<u>Trifolium nigrescens</u>	Ball clover
<u>Trifolium incarnatum</u>	Crimson clover
<u>Trifolium subterraneum</u>	Sub clover
<u>Lathyrus hirsutus</u>	Caley pea
<u>Vicia villosa</u>	Hairy vetch
<u>Vicia sativa</u>	Common vetch
<u>Vicia angustifolia</u>	Narrowleaf vetch
<u>Vicia grandiflora</u>	Bigflower vetch
<u>Medicago hispida</u>	Bur clover
<u>Medicago orbicularis</u>	Button clover
<u>Coronilla varia</u>	Crownvetch
<u>Panicum virgatum</u>	Switchgrass
<u>Sorghastrum nutans</u>	Indiangrass
<u>Festuca arundinacea</u>	Tall fescue
<u>Elymus virginicus</u>	Virginia wildrye
<u>Paspalum nicorae</u>	Brunswickgrass
<u>Spartina patens</u>	Marshhay cordgrass
<u>Lupinus angustifolius</u>	Blue lupine
<u>Paspalum monstachyum</u>	Shoredune paspalum

Cooperators

The Americus PMC has conducted cooperative programs with the following organizations:

Alabama Agricultural Experiment Stations
Alabama Crop Improvement Association
Auburn University
Fort Valley State College
Georgia Agricultural Experiment Stations
Georgia Crop Improvement Association
Georgia Department of Transportation
Georgia Seed Development Commission
Jekyll Island Authority
Tuskegee Institute
University of Georgia
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

PMC Staff

The staff at the PMC includes a center manager, assistant manager, biological technician/secretary, two gardeners, and a plant materials specialist (headquartered in Athens).

To arrange tours and other activities at the PMC, contact the center manager at Route 6, Box 417, Morris Drive, Americus, GA 31709, phone (912) 924-2286.

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