

# KIKA DE LA GARZA PLANT MATERIALS CENTER

USDA-NATURAL RESOURCES  
CONSERVATION SERVICE

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The Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center helped conduct 5 training sessions on the CORE 4 concept during the summer of 1999. Presentations were made to staff from more than 50 field offices in the South Texas area. The CORE 4 concept integrates four fundamental components: Conservation Tillage, Nutrient Management, Pest Management, and Conservation Buffers. The Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) launched the CORE 4 Marketing plan on Earth Day, April 22, 1999 in Washington D.C. NRCS chief Pearlie Reed has asked state conservationists to ensure that each NRCS employee has the opportunity to receive this important training. The CORE 4 concept is presented as a “common sense” approach to conservation application. The object is to provide the landowners with cost efficient systems that can be planned and applied with limited technical and financial assistance.

The conservation agronomy team for south Texas (Jim Childers, Jerry Pearce and John Freeman) conducted the first phase of this CORE 4 training with sessions dedicated to conservation buffers. “Conservation buffers are areas or strips of land maintained in permanent vegetation to help landowners intercept pollutants, manage other environmental problems, and enhance the landscape’s aesthetics and wildlife values”.

The Kika de la Garza PMC assisted the agronomy team by giving presentations on Vegetative Barriers and conducting tours at 4 different demonstration sites. The PMC has also produced a brochure and training booklet on the use and application of vegetative barriers in Texas.



The Kika de la Garza PMC has made a “select” germplasm release of False Rhodesgrass (*Chloris crinita*). False rhodesgrass or two flower trichloris is a native, warm-season perennial bunchgrass that is found south of San Antonio, Texas in the western two-thirds of the Rio Grande Plain of Texas and west to Arizona. False rhodesgrass is a codominant climax species with multi-flowered false rhodesgrass. This “selected” collection came from Brackettville, Kinney County, Texas. “Kinney” false rhodesgrass is predominantly adapted to clay loam, claypan prairie, and tight sandy loam range sites. “Kinney” false rhodesgrass should be used primarily as a component in seed mixtures for range restoration. For more information, please contact the Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center at 361-595-1313.



### **FALSE RHODESGRASS / TWO FLOWER TRICHLORIS**

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