



Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C. 20013

To: Plant Materials Center Managers, PMS's, Plant Materials Contacts,

Thank you to all who participated in this year's award nominations. First I would like to recognize our distinguished judges and thank them for participating in our effort:

Ben Smallwood, National Pest Management Specialist, Wash, DC
Julie Hawkins, State Biologist, Virginia
Jeff Burwell, SRC, Colorado

And now, the winners by category:

Plant Materials Outstanding Team - Presented in recognition of the best overall performance by a plant materials center, plant materials specialist, and associated program over the past year.

The **Bismarck Plant Materials Center** has excelled at providing a well rounded program. From plant releases to technical documents, such as the 40 page full-color native plantscaping booklet, the center has worked with a variety of partners. Their training efforts to NRCS and the district also impressed the judges.

Plant Materials Outstanding Employee - Presented to the Plant Materials employee who has demonstrated excellent leadership and skill in contributing to the Plant Materials Program over the last year. The winner is **Gregory Fenchel**, Plant Materials Manager, NMPMC. Greg is recognized in 2006 for his outstanding leadership, skill, and dedication in contributing to the Plant Materials Program both in New Mexico and nationally. His plant materials expertise, which has focused in recent years on the development of riparian plant materials and associated cultural practices, has been well documented and implemented throughout the region.

Plant Materials Meritorious Service - Presented to a Plant Materials employee who has made a significant and tangible contribution to the discipline over a long period of time. There are two winners this year. **Bob Joy**, Plant Materials Specialist, Hoolehua PMC, has made significant contributions to NRCS for the last 39 years, 35 of which has been with the Hoolehua PMC in Molokai. Bob's attention to technical detail and advice has served well the customers in the Hawaiian Islands and the Pacific Island Area. **Joel Douglas** has demonstrated an endless amount of commitment for the Plant Materials Program. Joel has served with the National PM Technical Committee since its inception and was very instrumental in choosing the statistics software and coordinating the statistics training for the PMP.

Plant Materials Special Service - Presented to a non-plant materials person (either within NRCS or outside the agency) whose efforts have or are substantially advancing the plant materials program. There are three winners for 2006. **David Wise**, Soil Conservationist at the Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College, Cloquet, Minnesota is recognized for consistent promotion of the Plant Materials Program throughout his career and annually providing assistance to the Bismarck Plant Materials Center, the Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College staff and students, tribal members and others. Dave serves on the State Plant Materials Center Committee and provides the American Indian perspective on native plants. **Scott Edwards**, RC&D Coordinator, Acadiana RC&D has worked tirelessly in support of the establishment of the Louisiana Native Plant Initiative. This project is a cooperative effort to help conserve and restore vanishing natural ecosystems in Louisiana. **Barry Isaacs**, State Biologist, NRCS-PA, has worked to promote native grasses in Pennsylvania and the East Region. Barry was a major influence in coordinating the very successful Fifth Eastern Native Grass Symposium held in Harrisburg, PA.

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Plant Materials Notable Achievement - Presented for efforts by an individual in completion of a specific plant materials product or specific activity. **John Englert** was instrumental in assisting with the development of the Conservation Security Program (CSP) on-farm research and enhancement activity. He developed the Plant Materials CSP database and associated web pages that are designed for field office user access. Through innovative thinking and combined cooperative efforts at both state and national levels, a shared position between the Bismarck PMC and the NPMC was established. John's outstanding commitment, direct support, technical and PM program expertise, patience, and encouragement are instrumental in the success of this cooperative endeavor.

I was hoping to distribute the awards at the combined meeting this spring but because of budgets, that won't happen. We are in the process of preparing awards for the winners and will provide them as soon as possible. Some awards I won't be able to present in person, but I just want you to know I appreciate your efforts and the Program is better because of you.

Keep up the good work, and together, we shall continue to elevate the status of the Program.

Bob Escherman
National Program Leader-Plant Materials

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