

# East Texas PMC News

A publication of the East Texas Plant Materials Center

Spring/Summer Edition-April 2005

## Cooperative Agroforestry Project

This study is a cooperative effort with the Arthur Temple College of Forestry – Stephen F. Austin State University. The objective of the study is to determine the response of particular trees to high phosphorus amounts. High amounts of phosphorus in poultry waste present a problem to poultry producers in east Texas and northwestern Louisiana. Utilizing fast growing trees along water bodies would provide a filter area for the trees to take up phosphorus.

In March, PMC staff completed the third year of basal diameter and height measurements of trees in the Agroforestry study. The fastest growing tree species in the study were cottonwood, sycamore, and black locust.



## Deertongue Seed Increase

Deertongue (*Dichanthelium clandestinum*) is a pioneer plant species adapted to low fertility and pH conditions. Because of the characteristic potential uses include mine reclamation and critical area reseeding.

In evaluations of deertongue at the East Texas PMC, #9067334 from Camp County, Texas performed better than 'Tioga', a commercial cultivar developed in the northeastern United States. The Camp County accession also performed better than collections from the east Texas area. A seed increase plot of #9067334 was established in 2003 at the East Texas PMC. The plot was increased in size in March and April of 2005. This plot will serve as the foundation seed source for commercial growers. This accession will be a future release from the East Texas PMC.



Seed is harvested using a flail vac or combine. In 2004, both methods were used to harvest seed. The combine harvest yielded more seed than the flail vac. In a greenhouse study conducted in March 2005, the flail vac harvested seed exhibited better plant emergence.

**Plant Materials Website:**

Plant – [Materials.nrcs.usda.gov](http://Materials.nrcs.usda.gov)

**The East Texas Plant Materials Center is located at the Stephen F. Austin Experimental Forest near Nacogdoches, Texas. Our address is 6598 FM2782, Nacogdoches, Texas 75964. Phone: (936) 564-4873 Fax: (936) 552-7924**

## NRCS Field Office Happenings

### NRCS Employees Recognized for Their Contributions

Paul Leggett (DC at Marshall, TX.) and Ross Brown (DC at Carthage, TX.) were recognized on February 15<sup>th</sup> at a Zone 4 DC conference at the East Texas PMC. Paul and Ross made the initial seed collection of Florida paspalum (*Paspalum floridanum*) accession #9043874 (Harrison County, TX.). Throughout the evaluation process this collection exhibited superior forage and seed production characteristics. This collection was formally released as Harrison germplasm Florida paspalum select release in December 2003. This release is undergoing further evaluation and intercenter strain trial testing.

Stan Murff (DC at Crockett, TX.) was recognized at the same DC conference. Stan and Joe McKay (retired) submitted the initial seed collection of herbaceous mimosa (*Mimosa strigillosa*) accession #9028136 (Houston County, TX.). This accession was released as Crockett germplasm herbaceous mimosa selected release. The low growing legume is adapted to a wide range of soils and exhibits drought tolerance. The potential uses of this release include revegetation and native plant landscaping.



Left: Paul Leggett and Ross Brown (below) receive appreciation certificates from Jim Stevens.



Stan Murff receives his appreciation certificate.



### Initial Evaluation Collections

Thank you to the NRCS employees in Texas and Louisiana who collected seed for initial evaluation plantings. A total of 152 collections of gayfeather, little bluestem, pinehill bluestem, and splitbeard bluestem were seeded in cones for transplanting to evaluation plots later this spring. Mike Stellbauer, Zone 4 Range Management Specialist, submitted the most number of collections.



## Meetings held at the East Texas PMC

1. January 26 - US Forest Service Leadership Team Meeting
2. February 15 – NRCS - Zone 4 DC conference
3. February 16 and 17 – NRCS – ATV Training
4. March 8, 10 – NRCS - ATV Training
5. March 8, 9 – TX Forest Service – Forestry Awareness Days\*
6. March 22, 23 – TX Forest Service – Forestry Awareness Days\*

\* Used PMC conference room for presenter's lunch



Zone 4 DC Conference

## Plant Materials Personnel Changes

### New Regional Plant Materials Specialist

Joel Douglas is the new Regional Plant Materials Specialist at the Central Regional Technology Support Center in Fort Worth, Texas. His duties include providing assistance to eight Plant Materials Centers located in Texas, Louisiana and north through the Great Plains to North Dakota.

He was manager of the Jamie L. Whitten Plant Materials Center in Coffeeville, Mississippi from 1997 to February 2005. Before transferring to Mississippi, he was the Assistant Manager at the East Texas Plant Materials Center from 1990 to 1993.

### Texas Plant Materials Specialist Retires

James Alderson, Texas Plant Materials Specialist, retired in January 2005. He served as the Plant Materials Center Manager at the Knox City Plant Materials Center before transferring to the Temple, Texas NRCS State Office.

Melinda Brakie attended the annual meeting of the Texas Chapter of the American Society of Agronomy in Lubbock, Texas during February 2005. Topics included seed bioengineering, water conservation agricultural systems for the high plains, and Smithsonian soils exhibit.

### **Plant Materials Center Staff:**

Jim Stevens – Plant Materials Center Manager

Melinda Brakie – Asst. Manager/ Soil Conservationist

Tim Allen – Biological Technician (Plants)

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