

Many of the plants released by the center, with their brightly colored blossoms, have aesthetic value as well as the intended conservation use, such as the



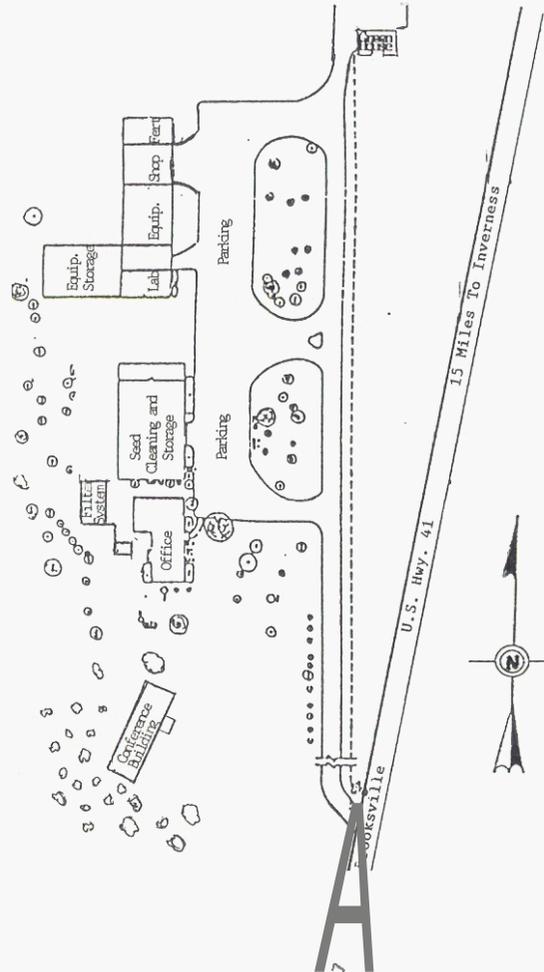
Beach sunflower 'Flora Sun', released for sand dune stabilization.



Perennial peanuts 'Arbrook' and 'Florigraze', released for improved pastures (they work well in grove cover crops also).



'Orlando' blue lupine and 'Armex' Mexican lupine released for winter cover crops, and soil improvement.



All programs and services of the Soil Conservation Service are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.



United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service

Improved Plants For A Better Tomorrow

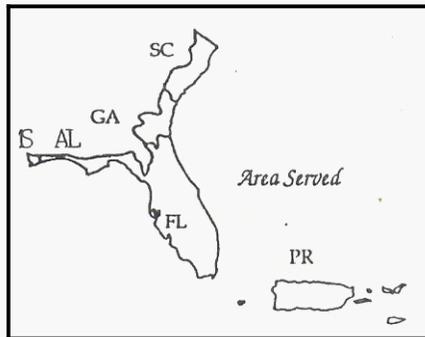


Plant Materials Center
Brooksville, Florida

The Brooksville Plant Materials Center

The Brooksville Plant Materials Center (PMC) is situated on 182 acres, with 42 acres currently under cultivation. Two nature trails take visitors through areas where endangered plant species can be found, and deer and wild turkey roam freely. The Brooksville PMC serves the entire State of Florida, Coastal areas of Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina.

Located throughout the 50 States and Puerto Rico, there are a total of 26 field PMC's which are operated, or assisted by the USDA - Soil Conservation Service (SCS).



Why A Plant Materials Center?

Conserving our nation's soil and water resources is of major concern. The PMCs' are testing facilities dedicated to finding and developing plants that aid in conserving these resources. Priorities are determined by conservation problems which have been identified in each PMCs' service area.

Priorities

- **Maintain or improve water quality by reducing or eliminating nutrients and contaminants before they reach the aquifer.**



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Erosion control of coastal dunes and beaches, cropland, disturbed areas, mine reclamation, grove cover crops.



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Improved forage for pasture and range.



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Wildlife habitat, including food and cover.



How Does The Plant Materials Program Work?

PMC researchers test and evaluate plants or seeds that may be used to solve identified conservation problems. The PMC biologist and agronomist select candidate seeds and plants and collect them from various sites to grow at the Center and in cooperator's field locations. Researchers spend several years monitoring plant performance by testing how plants grow in a variety of soil and weather conditions.

After carefully evaluating the data, researchers make a selection of a superior performing plant. Selected plants are released with cooperating agencies and recommended by USDA-SCS to aid in solving or reducing specific conservation problems.

The PMC develops and recommends propagation methods. Planting guides are issued that provide information such as; planting date, planting depths, seeding rate, and water and fertilizer requirements. This information is available to anyone interested in the plants.

The released plant material is presented to commercial growers for sale to the public.