



This semi-annual newsletter is published by the USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center, 14119 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34601-4525, Tel: 352-796-9600, FAX: 352-799-7305. E-mail: clarence.maura@fl.usda.gov

Interested in wildlife food plots? 'Chapingo' Mexican teosinte is your seed the deer and turkey love. The Jack Melton Family is now added to the list of seed producers for the teosinte. They are in Hernando County, Florida. Their telephone number is (352) 583-3052.



Chapingo' Mexican Teosinte

Have You Met Her Yet?

Well, she's here—Beverly, that is Beverly Gordon, the Plant Materials Center's new secretary. She transferred from USDA, Agricultural Research Service, Subtropical Agricultural Research Station, a beef cattle research center at Chinsegut Hill—just across the way from the PMC. She had to make the transition from cows to plants and is doing a great

Hernando County Science Fair Project

Courtney Rumula, a 9th grade student at Hernando Christian Academy is working on a science project, "The Ecological Impact of *Spodoptera frugiperda* on *Bacillus thuringensis* Zea mays L." Her plants are in PMC's greenhouse. The objective of the project is to find out if genetically modified plants (*Bacillus thuringensis*) can be effective in retarding the infestation of *Spodoptera frugiperda*.



Courtney Rumula Working on Science Project

Technology Oriented Performance Program (TOPP)

F. W. Springstead High School's TOPP received a \$500 donation from the Spring Hill, Florida, Walmart Center for the "Greenhouse

Project.” Along with USDA, Plant Materials Center, the TOPP students are again working together in a hands-on program of propagating “Spartina Patens, North Pa and Native Sunflowers.” Mary Anne Gonter, Biological Science Technician (Plants), is teaching students to propagate and care for these native species in the High School’s soil conservation projects throughout the State of FL. Ms. Gonter visits the greenhouse a few times a year, bringing soil conservation plants from the Brooksville PMC. Clarence Maura, PMC Manager, lectures the students on the immediate environmental needs for soil conservation.

We Miss Her

Just a little poem written by one of our Technicians, Ed Black. Our thanks to Sharon Pfaff, Agronomist, and we do miss her. She is back to the “big skies” of Montana and working on the ranch. Here’s to you:

TO SHARON:

*We’re known as “Old Dixie”
Or just “Way Down South.”
With a colorful language,
And a slow moving mouth.*

*There’s heat, humidity,
Skeeters and gators,
But also corn bread, fried chicken,
And baked sweet taters.*

*We’re Mickey Mouse, beaches
And hot summer sun.
But also ranches, cattle,
And farm work to be done.*

*When you smell magnolia blossoms,
Hear a mocking bird’s song,
You’ll think, “This is a place
Where I could belong.”*

*You’re leaving us now,
But back home you will find
Once you’ve been “Down South”
It’s in your heart
And in your mind.*

*You came here to work
And became a friend.
“Good Bye” is too final,
How about, “We’ll see you again?”*

Good Luck

2003 Plant Materials Available

Seed and/or plants of the following species are available to commercial growers:

- ◆ ‘Flora Sun’ beach sunflower
- ◆ ‘Northpa’ and ‘Southpa’ bitter panicum
- ◆ ‘Sharp’ and ‘Flageo’ marshhay cordgrass
- ◆ ‘Citrus’ maidencane
- ◆ ‘Floragraze’ and ‘Arbrook’ perennial peanut
- ◆ ‘Chapingo’ Mexican teosinte (seed)
- ◆ ‘Martin’ and ‘St. Lucie’ eastern gamagrass

These plants were selected to meet conservation needs and are recommended by USDA for planting throughout the Florida PMC service area. Growers should contact Plant Materials Specialist, Samuel Sanders, for additional information. Sam can be contacted at (352) 338-9547.