



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.

More PMC-led Training

PMC personnel provided training to new and newly assigned NRCS employees in the Southeast during the New Employee Orientation (NEO) training course held January 23-27 in Gainesville, FL. On the 25th, course participants traveled to the Brooksville PMC and Janet Grabowski, PMC Manager, and Mimi Williams, FL Plant Materials Specialist, gave them background information on the Plant Materials Program and provided an overview of current activities at the PMC. Biological Technicians, Mary Anne Gonter and Ed Black, showed them the steps involved in preparing a firm seed bed and Mary Anne showed them the greenhouses and some of the equipment and implements used to carry out our field operations. After lunch, the participants continued on to other tour sites with Dan Oliver, District Conservationist in the NRCS Field Office in San Antonio, FL.



Sumter Co. Master Gardener Training

The new Sumter County Master Gardeners Training class visited the USDA Plant Materials Center in Brooksville as one part of their 12-week training session. The 23 Master Gardener trainees

learned about Florida native grasses and wildflowers, plant propagation (both vegetative and seed), and seed cleaning techniques. Master Gardeners receive intensive training on the care of fruit, vegetables, landscapes and lawns.



After passing a written exam, the Master Gardeners become certified and agree to provide 50 hours of approved civic service to local residents. The Florida Master Gardener

program is sponsored by the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) and the Florida Cooperative Extension Service.

PMC Addresses Security Concerns

In 2005, the PMC was allocated additional funding from the National Plant Materials Program to address remaining security items. We only had a few items left on our list including installation of a duress alarm (panic button) in the pesticide mixing/storage building, a new door for our fertilizer storage area, installation of burglar bars over ventilation louvers in the pesticide building and rear windows on the seed cleaning building and the shop, and, the biggest item, installation of a four-strand barbed wire fence around the perimeter of our entire property. When this allocation came down, we had already contracted to install a backup generator to allow us to continue functioning in case of a power outage and to enable State Office staff to relocate here to continue operations in the event Gainesville should be affected. With these new security features and all the others instituted during the past few years, the PMC should provide

a safe and secure work environment. If you're in the area, please stop by some time and see our progress – we promise we will let you in the gate.

Plant Spotlight



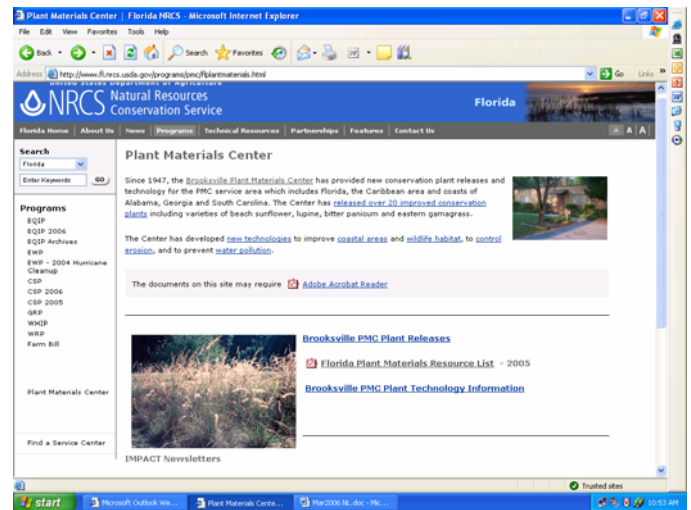
Citrus selected germplasm maidencane

Maidencane is a native, rhizomatous, grass that is generally found in wetter sites. Citrus, released by the PMC in 1998, was collected in Citrus County, Florida. It is an excellent plant for stabilizing banks of lakes, ponds, and streams and for use in constructed wetlands. It has also been shown to be well adapted for revegetating suitable areas of reclaimed phosphate-mined land. Current supply of bare-root rhizomes for the latter use is vastly insufficient to meet the needs of the mining industry. If you know of any producers who might be interested in entering this market, please contact Florida Plant Materials Specialist, Mimi Williams at (352) 338-9544.

Notes from the Specialist

The PMC was constantly being asked what to plant and where to find planting material, particularly warm season native grass seed. To assist you better, the PMC staff and I have compiled what we are calling the "Plant Resource List". This list gives you such useful information as recommended plant species, selections or cultivars to use, and where to find them. Check the PMC

webpage <http://www.fl.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/flplantmaterials.html>) for the latest version. - mjj



Upcoming Meetings

Plant Materials Technical Committee – April 5-6 – Crestview, FL

Alabama Coastal Restoration Workshop – May 22-26 – Gulf Shores, AL

State Conservationist's Advisory Meeting – June 6-7, Mayaguez, PR

FL Pastureland Ecology Training Session 1 – July 11-12 – PMC – Session 2 – July 18-19 – Marianna, FL

2006 Plant Materials Available

Seed and/or plants of the following species are available from the PMC for distribution to commercial growers:

- ◆ Floral Passion gayfeather
- ◆ Miami, Stuart, and Wabasso switchgrass
- ◆ 'Chapingo' Mexican teosinte
- ◆ Brooksville 67 and Brooksville 68 perennial peanut
- ◆ Citrus maidencane
- ◆ 'Floragraz' and 'Arbrook' perennial peanut
- ◆ Martin and St. Lucie eastern gamagrass

These plants were selected to meet conservation needs and are recommended by USDA-NRCS for planting throughout the Florida PMC service area. Contact PMC for additional information at (352) 796-9600.

Look up the Brooksville, FL PMC at <http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov> or <http://www.fl.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/flplantmaterials.html>

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