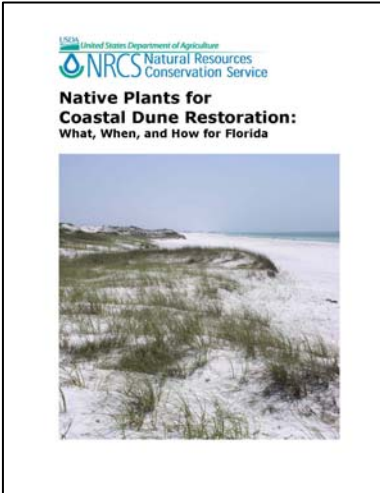




This semi-annual newsletter is published by the USDA-NRCS Brooksville Plant Materials Center, 14119 Broad Street, Brooksville, FL 34601-4525, Tel: 352-796-9600, FAX: 352-799-7305.

New Coastal Plant Publication!



“Native Plants for Coastal Dune Restoration: What, When, and How for Florida” is now available online at the Brooksville PMC website. Mimi Williams, Florida Plant Materials Specialist (PMS), said, “This publication is a revision and expansion of the old USDA, SCS publication “Plants for

Coastal Dunes of the Gulf and South Atlantic Coasts and Puerto Rico” by R. M. Craig, which was last published in 1991. Much of the information in that publication was out-of-date. For example, it listed Australian pine as a useful species for coastal plantings. The new publication still mentions Australian pine, but as an exotic invasive that should not be used. The plants listed in this new publication are all Florida native species.”

The new publication was developed to help people on Florida’s coasts select and use plants for coastal stabilization and habitat restoration. The information presented in the publication is the result of the active selection and evaluation program of the Brooksville Plant Materials Center (PMC) as well as information from various state and federal sources. In addition to information on the grasses, forbs, and woodies listed in the publication, generalized information on coastal ecology and revegetation planning is provided. This information is intended for planners, landscapers,

nursery operators, developers, and homeowners in Florida.

The 33 plant species identified in this publication were selected based on their favorable characteristics for erosion control, frequency of occurrence, and dominance in their ecosystems.

The publication describes each plant, its area of occurrence, commercial availability, and special propagation or planting needs. One page is devoted to each species and is illustrated with one or more photographs and a map showing the counties where the plant can be found.

Mimi said, “I am particularly grateful to the photographers that allowed us to use their work to illustrate this publication.” To access the publication, go to <http://www.fl.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/pmc/flplantmaterials.html>.



A New Gator Loose in Florida

The Brooksville PMC released Gator Germplasm blue maidencane in 2007. Blue maidencane is a native grass that is commonly found in Florida’s wetlands, generally on fairly coarse-textured soils. Gator was collected in northern Citrus County, Florida. Blue maidencane is an unusual grass in that it produces two types of flowering structures. The above ground panicles produce sterile spikelets; whereas, a single fertile spikelet is produced underground on a slender branch growing from the base of the stem.



Because of this underground or geocarpic seed production mechanism, Gator must be propagated vegetatively. Planting stock will be available for distribution to potential growers in 2008.

Spotlight on Volunteers!

At certain times during the week, visitors to the PMC might see some strange, well perhaps more correctly, different faces working on the Center. For the past two years, Mike Gonter (yes he is related to a PMC staff member) has been assisting with the grounds maintenance at the PMC. In FY 2007 alone, Mike has contributed over 300 hours of his time. Mike has been in several lines of work during his career, with over 12 years experience as a block mason and for another 10 years he owned his own tire shop. As you can see in the photo above, Mike likes to be outside and, according to his better half, loves fishing, boating, traveling, and buying antiques.



The newest volunteer face at the PMC is Pat Leach. Pat says she has always been interested in native plants and is a lifelong gardener. Pat retired in July 2007 after



a career in the medical profession. Pat explained that when a friend suggested she might enjoy volunteering at the Center after she retired, it sounded like a great idea. She said, "I have thoroughly

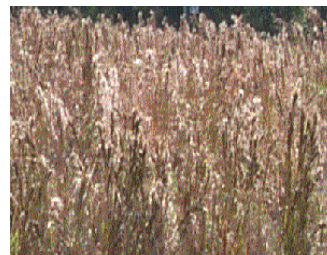
enjoyed my work here...I appreciate the opportunity to learn and admire the work done at the plant center. It's a worthwhile thing to do!"

Surf's Up

NRCS staff in Alabama, with assistance from the Florida PMS and PMC staff, hosted another successful Coastal Restoration Workshop/Field Day at Dauphin Island, Alabama this summer. Approximately 20 people attended the workshop presentation on May 14. Presentations on suitable plants, planting techniques, sand fencing, and wildlife concerns were given by NRCS, University of Florida, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife personnel. The Field Day, on following day, was held in conjunction with the State Conservationist's Advisory Committee Meeting and committee members joined in with approximately 80 local students and teachers to plant several hundred coastal plants provided by the PMC and purchased by the Mobile County Soil and Water Conservation District.

2007 Plant Materials Available

Other recent PMC releases are **Ghost Rider Germplasm Purple Bluestem** (left) and **Morning Mist Germplasm Hairawn Muhly** (right). Seeds of Ghost Rider and plants of Morning Mist can be requested from Mimi Williams at mj.williams@fl.usda.gov or (352) 338-9544.



Seeds and/or plants of the following PMC releases are also available for production purposes. These plants were selected to meet conservation needs and are recommended by USDA, NRCS for planting throughout the Florida PMC service area. Contact the PMC for additional information at (352) 796-9600.

- ◆ Floral Passion blazing star
- ◆ Miami, Stuart, and Wabasso switchgrass
- ◆ 'Flora Sun' beach sunflower
- ◆ 'Northpa' and 'Southpa' bitter panicum
- ◆ 'Sharp' and 'Flageo' marshhay cordgrass
- ◆ Citrus maidencane
- ◆ 'Florigraze' and 'Arbrook' perennial peanut
- ◆ 'Chapingo' Mexican teosinte
- ◆ Martin and St. Lucie eastern gamagrass
- ◆ Brooksville 67 and Brooksville 68 perennial peanut

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

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.