

Title: Brooksville Plant Materials Center: Developing Sources of Native Plants for Revegetation in Florida

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Selected topic area: Biodiversity Conservation and Management

Abstract

In Florida, revegetation projects can cost >\$1000 per acre due to the need for vegetative propagation and/or lack of seeded ecotypes. The mission of the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Brooksville, Florida Plant Materials Center (PMC) is to develop commercially viable selections and sources of native materials. Four new releases from the Brooksville PMC program should greatly reduce the cost of revegetation projects in Florida because, in addition to their other attributes, they were selected for mechanized propagation and planting. 'Citrus' maidencane (*Panicum hemitomom*) selected germplasm released in 1998 and a blue maidencane (*Amphicarpum muehlenbergianum*) to be released in 2007 are both important vegetatively propagated wetland species developed by this program. Maidencane is a native perennial, warm season, semi-erect grass that is adapted to aquatic or semi-aquatic sites, while blue maidencane (a.k.a., 'goobergrass' because of its geocarpic seed production) occurs in transitional areas between flatwoods and depressional landscapes. 'Ghost Rider' purple bluestem (*Andropogon glomeratus* var. *glaucopsis*) selected germplasm was released in 2006 and a lopsided indiagrass (*Sorghastrum secundum*) will be released in 2008. Purple bluestem is one of the most important species found on native range sites and is usually found around water bodies and in wetter flatwoods sites; lopsided indiagrass is one of the most easily recognized and most important upland grass species on Florida. Field production and mechanical harvesting protocols have been developed for all of these species. For more information on these and other restoration plants native to Florida, visit the Brooksville PMC website (<http://www.fl.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/pmc/flplantmaterials.html>).