



NewsNote

A Periodic Note for State PLANTS Coordinators

1 February 2005

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1. New Moss Images to be Added to PLANTS Database

The NPDC is currently integrating several thousand moss photos contributed by German botanist, Michael Lüth. This should be of special interest to those in the Pacific Northwest, upper Midwest, and Alaska.



Bryum caespiticium

Most mosses are somewhat inconspicuous, but they are a very important part of the ecosystem, particularly for nutrient cycling, erosion control, and serving as an insulator for permafrost in the arctic. It is estimated that mosses actually occupy about 1% of the earth's surface. The images will be available in March. To access the images, visit a moss Plant Profile or the PLANTS Image Gallery.

2. NewsNote Archive on NPDC State Coordinators Page

Archived editions of NPDC NewsNotes are now accessible through the NPDC Web site on the State Coordinators page. Visit <http://npdc.usda.gov>, click on the state coordinators button on the gray navigational bar, or use the Quick Access NewsNotes link on the left side of the page.

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3. **Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Note Released**

The NPDC ethnobotany office recently released a technical note called “Traditional Ecological Knowledge: An Important Facet in Natural Resources Conservation.” This publication, the first in a series, highlights the knowledge base acquired by indigenous and local peoples over hundreds of years through direct experience and contact with the environment.

The publication gives step-by-step guidance on how to delve into our rich human past, to reconstruct historic land use and management practices in different landscapes, using examples from California. Land managers and restorationists are discovering that ancient cultural practices—burning, pruning, thinning, and weeding of native plants—are not *passé*. These techniques apply directly to the restoration and management of our natural resources and biodiversity today. This will provide an understanding of cultural practices, their relation to land management, and how we can use that knowledge to put conservation on the land and better serve our customers.



The publication is available on the NPDC Web site at http://npdc.usda.gov/pdf/0105_tek_report.pdf or on the NRCS eDirectives Web site at <http://policy.nrcs.usda.gov>. For more information, contact Kat Anderson, NPDC ethnoecologist at mkanderson@ucdavis.edu.



4. **FNA Volume 5: Magnoliophyta: Caryophyllidae Available at a Discount**

Volume 5, the third of nineteen volumes on dicots in the Flora of North America series, will be available in February 2005. It will highlight 739 species in 75 genera and three families: Caryophyllaceae (Pink Family), Polygonaceae (Buckwheat Family), and Plumbaginaceae (Leadwort Family).

To purchase this volume, or any of the other 8 available volumes at a 20% discount, visit www.oup.com/us/fnaseries and enter promo code 23869. You must place your order by March 31, 2005 to receive the discount.



5. **North American Grasses--A Work in Progress**

In an earlier NewsNote, we mentioned that the Flora of North America published one of two volumes (vol. 25) on the grasses of North America. Volume 24 is expected to be published in 2006. In the meantime, a draft, synonymized checklist pertaining to all North American grasses is available on-line for your information. Access it at: http://herbarium.usu.edu/treatments/accepted_names_and_synonyms.htm.



6. Genetic Issues in Selecting Native Plant Materials Guidebook Released

The USDA Forest Service and Regents of the University of California have recently released a new guidebook entitled “Genetically Appropriate Choices for Plant Materials to Maintain Biological Diversity.” The publication is now available as a PDF (3MB) download at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/publications/botany/plantgenetics.pdf>.

This guidebook synthesizes genetic principles and provides examples to inform land managers of genetic issues relevant in the selection of native plant materials for use in wildlands. It focuses to some degree on fire and timber harvest as large scale disturbances in the Rocky Mountain Region, but has a wealth of information widely applicable to many different types of revegetation projects.

For more information, contact Andrew Kratz, Regional Botanist, USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region, at 303-275-5009 or akratz@fs.fed.us.



7. Reforestation, Nurseries, & Genetic Resources (RNGR) Web site

The Forest Service RNGR team maintains an informative Web site of particular interest for Plant Materials and specialists involved in restoration activities. Approximately 250 species abstracts (primarily tropical) containing tips on harvesting and seedling production are available. The site also contains a chapter entitled “Tropical Seed Tree Manual.” To access the site’s publications go to <http://www.rngr.net/Publications/ttsm/Folder.2003-07-11.4726>.



Your Feedback is Requested

Please send comments regarding PLANTS, NPDC NewsNote, or other plant-related issues to rebecca.noricks@la.usda.gov. Archived versions of NPDC NewNotes are available on the NPDC Web site at <http://npdc.usda.gov>, on the State Coordinators page.



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