



NewsNote

A Periodic Note for State PLANTS Coordinators

20 July 2004



NPDC Welcomes Rebecca Noricks and Gerald Guala

Becky Noricks is joining the NPDC as the Plant Information Coordinator. She comes to us from the NRCS Social Sciences Institute, where she has been working with Barbara Wallace in the Grand Rapids, MI office. Becky will be getting the word out on PLANTS, doing quality control, acquiring additional data, and moving us beyond the 18 million hits per month that PLANTS currently receives.

Gerald "Stinger" Guala will be joining the NPDC in November as a plant taxonomist. Stinger received his Ph.D. from the University of Florida-Gainesville (grass specialist) and recently was the Herbarium Curator at the Fairchild Tropical Gardens, Coral Gables, FL. He is currently completing a two-year stint at the National Science Foundation as Program Director for Biological Databases and Informatics, plus Assembling the Tree of Life programs.



NPDC Working On Pollinator Module For PLANTS

We are currently working with the USDA ARS Bee Systematics Lab developing data for a pollinator/host plant module for PLANTS. This module would provide information to assist the field in developing and maintaining pollinator populations and habitat, especially adjacent to agricultural fields.

Pollinators play a pivotal role in the production of an estimated one out of every three bites of food that humans eat and in the reproduction of at least 80 percent of flowering plants. Commodities produced with the help from animal pollinators generate significant income for agricultural producers. For example, domestic honeybees pollinate an estimated \$14.6 billion worth of crops in the U.S. each year produced on more than 2,000,000 acres. It is thus in the strong economic interest of both agricultural producers and the American consumer to help ensure a healthy, sustainable pollinator population. Today, possible declines in the health and population of pollinators pose what could be a significant threat to the integrity of biodiversity, to global food webs, and to human health (from North American Pollinator Protection Campaign www.nappc.org).



Forest Service On-line Publications

The Forest Service recently established on-line publications that may be of interest, particularly to foresters and grazing lands specialists.

Rocky Mountain Research Station <http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/main/pubs/electronic.html>

●Field Guide to Intermountain Sedges: http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr010.html

The authors have graciously provided us their photos and they are integrated into PLANTS and available to you.

- Mistletoes of North American Conifers: http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr098.html
- On-line Fire Publications: http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/main/fire_res/fire_pubs.html

Northeastern Research Station http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/new_pubs-ne.jsp and http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/new_pubs-na.jsp

- Sudden Oak Death: <http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/viewpub.jsp?index=11055>
- Silvics of N. America: <http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/viewpub.jsp?index=11006>

Southern Research Station http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/new_pubs-srs.jsp

- Establishing Longleaf Pine Seedlings On Agricultural Fields And Pastures: http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/gtr/gtr_srs071/gtr_srs071-hainds001.pdf

Pacific Northwest Research Station http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/new_pubs-pnw.jsp

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Information Accessible At The Missouri Botanical Garden

- The Center for Plant Conservation coordinates conservation on the most rare plants nationally <http://www.centerforplantconservation.org/>. Abstracts of over 600 endangered species http://ridgwaydb.mobot.org/cpcweb/CPC_NCList_Quick.asp are available and quite useful.

- Kemper Plant Finder: This is a great source for information on horticultural plants. It provides information on uses, growing recommendations, environmental requirements, and plant characteristics <http://www.mobot.org/gardeninghelp/plantfinder/Alpha.asp>.

- W3 TROPICOS is a botanical database that contains over 900,000 plant names, 2 million herbarium specimens, and 50,000 photos. If you can't find it in PLANTS, you may find some basic information here: <http://mobot.mobot.org/W3T/Search/vast.html>.

- A detailed synopsis of the book, "Ornamental plants from Russia and adjacent states of the former Soviet Union: A botanical guide for travelers and gardeners" by Tatyana Shulkina is now on-line through the Missouri Botanical Garden. It contains a section on hardy trees and shrubs for special environmental conditions.

<http://www.mobot.org/MOBOT/Research/russia/welcome.shtml>

- For those of you interested in plant classification, you might want to check out the Angiosperm Phylogeny Database. Peter Stevens and the botanical community are working to build a new evolutionary hierarchy for the flowering plants based on current scientific research. Once the data set reaches equilibrium, the NPDC will be working with the authors to update the flowering plant hierarchy (classification) in PLANTS. Click on "Trees" at the top of the page.

<http://www.mobot.org/MOBOT/Research/APweb/welcome.html>

Seed Information Database

This is a database maintained at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. It contains valuable information on seed characteristics. The front end is rather clunky and you have to know what you are looking for before employing a search. Search the database for "Vicia americana" for a sample of what is available. If you input the family, Fabaceae, click "Use APG," and click "Search," you will obtain a long list of the legumes that are currently in the database.

<http://www.rbgekew.org.uk/data/sid/#About%20the%20database>





Your Feedback is Requested

Please send comments regarding PLANTS, NPDC NewsNote, or other plant-related issues to <rebecca.noricks@la.usda.gov>. Visit us on the Web at <http://npdc.usda.gov>.



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