

United States Department of Agriculture



**Rose Lake**  
**Plant Materials Center**  
*Newsletter*  
*July 2007*

# Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomini Indians

## Sweetgrass

The Rose Lake Plant Materials Center (PMC) provided propagation training and establishment assistance of sweetgrass through Bruce Van Den Bosch, Tribal Contact/District Conservationist for NRCS in Allegan County, to the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomini Indians (tribe). The tribe located and collected sweetgrass plants from traditional areas of harvest and brought these to the PMC. Through a Memorandum of Agreement and Task Agreement the PMC agreed to propagate 50 plants, teach tribal members propagation techniques and assist with planting the sweetgrass plugs.



*Dave Burgdorf & Robert Oilvarri*

### **Participation from the tribe included:**

D.K. Sprague, Tribal Chairman  
Ed Pigeon, Language/Cultural Coordinator  
Robert Oilvarri, Tribal Head Veteran  
Frank Sprague, Luella Collins Community Center Operational Manager  
Liz Binoniemi, Environmental Coordinator  
Monte Davis, Environmental Specialist



*LR: Monte Davis, Dave Burgdorf, Robert Oilvarri, and John Leif*

### **Participation from NRCS included:**

Bruce Van Den Bosh, District Conservationist  
John Leif, Manager-Rose Lake Plant Materials Center  
Gail Bishchoff, Greenhouse Manager  
Dave Burgdorf, Plant Materials Specialist  
Other PMC staff



*Robert Oilvarri*

On May 21, 2007 - Ninety nine sweetgrass plugs were planted by the tribal members and NRCS staff at the Luella Collins Tribal Community Center in Wayland Township/Allegan County.

Reports to date indicate that the sweetgrass plants are establishing well.

# Time to Identify Ash Trees

Now is the time to identify ash trees for seed collection in the fall. Tree identification is critical to successful seed collection. Ash trees can be identified by leaf, bark, stem, bud, and general structure characteristics. Identification information and photos are accessible at [www.ashseed.org](http://www.ashseed.org)

With the potential of losing the country's ash trees, the Rose Lake Plant Materials Center (PMC) launched **The National Ash Tree Seed Collection Initiative**. Seed is collected from ash trees in the fall.

Rose Lake PMC staff sort and send seed to the USDA Forest Service National Seed Laboratory in Georgia for X-ray analysis. Seed that passes the X-ray test is placed in long-term storage at the National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation in Colorado. Since its beginning in the summer of 2005, **The National Ash Tree Seed Collection Initiative** has placed approximately 125 samples in storage at the Center for Genetic Resources Preservation.

Anyone may join this collection initiative and additional volunteer collectors are needed. More information on the initiative, including hints for identifying and collecting ash seed, is available at [www.ashseed.org](http://www.ashseed.org)

Rose Lake Plant Materials Center 7472 Stoll Road-East Lansing, Michigan 48823 - Telephone 517/641-6300

## National Ash Seed Collection Initiative

# Help Save America's Ash Trees for Future Generations

America is losing its Ash Trees to the Emerald Ash Borer at an alarming rate. Millions of Ash Trees have already been destroyed. You can help prevent the Ash Tree from being lost forever. Go to [www.ashseed.org](http://www.ashseed.org) to learn how you can collect ash seed for genetic preservation.

 <p><b>Black Ash</b> Habitat: Poorly drained sites such as swamps, streams and riverbanks. Features: 40 to 50 feet in height, small than either white or green ash. The terminal buds are more black when compared to the brown of either green or white ash.</p>	 <p><b>Green Ash</b> Habitat: Poorly drained soils, along streams, in bottom lands, and throughout wet woods. Features: Compared to the leaf scar of the white ash, the scar appears more like a semicircle with a flat line across the top.</p>
 <p><b>Blue Ash</b> Habitat: Dry upland limestone sites. Features: Twigs that appear to be square. The wings that grow on the twigs give the tree its square twig identifying characteristic.</p>	 <p><b>White Ash</b> Habitat: Upland sites with little tolerance for wet areas. Features: The leaf scar (area where leaf was attached to the branch) on white ash has more of a grin to it than do other ashes.</p>

Above are four common species of ash tree. The USDA is interested in preserving seed from all species of ash trees native to North America.

The National Ash Tree Seed Collection Initiative is a Partnership of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the USDA Agricultural Research Service, the USDA Forest Service and other federal, state and local agencies. For more information, including collection forms and tree identification aids, visit: [www.ashseed.org](http://www.ashseed.org).

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



**National Ash Tree Seed Collection Initiative** poster and brochure are available from [www.ashseed.org](http://www.ashseed.org) or by calling 517-641-6300.

# 2007 Conservation Field Plantings

A hallmark of the Plant Materials Program is the testing and evaluation of plant materials for their effectiveness in conservation practices. The selection and testing process starts with comparative evaluations of collected materials, usually in small plots on the Center and off-Center locations. When candidates for release have been identified seed and plants are provided to other PMC's and Field Offices for further evaluation. An important part of that evaluation process is conservation field plantings – evaluating plant materials under conditions similar to their intended use. Data from those plantings are used to further define the utility of a plant release and provide support for including those releases in States' respective eFOTG's.

The Rose Lake PMC requested conservation field plantings in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin in 2007. Icy Blue germplasm Canada wildrye, Koch germplasm prairie sandreed, and a riverbank wildrye selection were offered to field offices throughout the PMC service area to be installed in areas where Conservation Cover or Critical Area Planting practices would be used.

The following conservation field plantings have been established to date:

Wexford County, Michigan – Icy Blue germplasm Canada wildrye



*Icy Blue germplasm Canada wildrye*

Arenac County, Michigan - Riverbank wildrye

Antrim County, Michigan – Icy Blue germplasm Canada wildrye  
Riverbank wildrye  
Koch germplasm prairie sandreed



*Koch germplasm prairie sandreed*

Juneau County, Wisconsin – Icy Blue germplasm Canada wildrye  
Riverbank wildrye  
Koch germplasm prairie sandreed

The Rose Lake PMC wishes to thank those NRCS Field Offices and cooperators that participated in the 2007 conservation field planting effort. Plant materials are still available for additional test sites. Please contact Dave Burgdorf, Plant Materials Specialist, for additional information.



*Riverbank Wildrye*

## Ft. Custer Military Training Center Field Planting

The week of June 18-22, 2007 proved to be a busy week for the Rose Lake PMC, planting 16,000 Indiangrass and 16,000 Big Bluestem at the Ft. Custer Military Training Center. Our thanks go out to all who helped in the planting process including: Carla Gregory, Kim Weiber, Bern Schmidt, Bruce Green, Amalia Gomez, Lawrence Donahue, Rebekah DeWind, Matt Soehnel, Greg Thoen, Stacy Kimble and Earth Team Volunteer Taylor Durling, who is a new cadet at West Point.



Carla Gregory and Kim Weiber prepared plants for planting.



Taylor Durling positions plants into the planter as John Leif operates the tractor.

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