

### Water Quality:

Maintaining water quality in Arkansas and the PMC service area is a primary concern. Pollution control and how plant materials may address this problem is a primary priority of the PMC. Many municipalities use surface water for human consumption and industrial use. Runoff containing sediment, nutrients, and organic materials, is a major source of sedimentation and pollution. The disposal of urban and agricultural waste must be accomplished in a manner to minimize damage to the environment. Plant species may be used as plant barriers to reduce runoff, absorb nutrients and potentially toxic substances, and stabilize the soil.

### Reclaiming Critical Areas:

The natural beauty of the PMC service area supports an expanding and vital tourist industry. In many instances, intense use of the land has damaged and continues to damage the landscape. Wise use of plants can aid in restoring the beauty and productivity of damaged areas. Plant material for logging roads and loading areas will reduce soil runoff and stabilize the soil. Coal production in the Center service area results in areas that would benefit from plant material able to survive harsh growing conditions in reclamation of these areas. Plant material may be used to stabilize stream banks and reduce the detachment of soil particles and transport during periods of high water velocities. Lake shorelines require protection by plants to reduce destructive wave action and fluctuating water levels. Plant material may also dissipate wave action and

energy and need to be able to survive both inundation and dry periods.

### PMC Staff:



**Randy King,**  
Manager  
**Lance Tharel,**  
Assn't Manager  
**Dale Goff,**  
Science Tech.  
**Eddie Pratt,**  
Science Tech.  
**Debbie Orick,**  
Secretary

### Tours are Available

Visitors are always welcome at the Booneville Plant Materials Center. The staff is eager to share its enthusiasm for plants. Public awareness is important to the success of the program.

**Tour hours are from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm  
Monday through Friday!  
For reservations or additional information  
call us at:  
(479) 675-5182**

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**Booneville Plant Materials Center**



**Serving three states:  
Arkansas, Oklahoma & Missouri**



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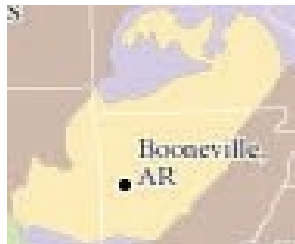
**Introduction:**

The Booneville Plant Materials Center (PMC) became part of the national system of PMCs in 1987. The centers generally are located where they can serve two or more States that have similar soils and vegetation. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) operates the centers in cooperation with other Federal and State agencies. NRCS initiated the national plant materials program to study ways to reduce erosion and its productive capability. Besides beautifying the landscape, the plants used to control soil erosion also provide wildlife with food and cover. A national system of PMCs permits NRCS to study a variety of plants under a wide range of soil and climate conditions.

**Location:**

The Booneville PMC, Logan County, Arkansas is co-located with the Dale Bumpers Small Farm Research Center, 6 miles southwest of Booneville on Highway 23.

**Service Area:**



The primary service area of the Center encompasses fifty-three million acres of land in part of Arkansas, Oklahoma

and Missouri.

Much of the area has rugged terrain with elevations ranging from 300 to 3,000 feet.

The average annual rainfall varies from 36 inches in the west to 53 inches in the higher regions of the east. The average frost free period of the area ranges from 180 to 200 days. Drought in the summer months can be severe. The land is used mainly for woodland and forage production. Although the soils on much of the land are shallow, stony, and erosive, small family farms are the rule. Agriculture, coal mining, and tourism support the region's economy. The staff at the PMC studies and develops species of plants to find the plants needed to help the area's landowners and managers protect water quality, reclaim critical areas, help reduce and control erosion, enhance wildlife habitat and improve grasslands, work with State road departments on soil erosion and planting techniques.

**Our Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Natural Resources Conservation Service Plant Materials (PM) Program is to develop, test, and transfer effective state-of-the-art plant science technology to meet customer and resource needs. NRCS PM activities are consistent with the objectives of the current United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and NRCS Strategic Plan namely to provide timely and effective vegetative solutions for identified resource needs.

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the NRCS Plant Materials Program is to: 1) assemble, test, and release plant materials for conservation use, 2) determine techniques for successful use and management of conservation species, 3) facilitate the commercial increase of conservation species, 4) provide for the timely development and transfer of effective state-of-the-art applied plant science technology to solve conservation problems, and 5) promote the use of plant science technology to meet the goals and objectives of the USDA and NRCS Strategic Plans.



**Pastureland:**

Over 7 million acres are in some type of grassland in the PMC service area. The grasslands in the PMC service area are generally distributed throughout the state of Arkansas but are predominately in northwest and southwest corners of the state, eastern Oklahoma, and southern Missouri. Grasslands contribute a major source of income to many producers. Many species currently used require high fertility, have low palatability, and are not cold or drought tolerant. Many native and

introduced species are available to increase production, extend the growing season, and require lower management inputs.