Cooperative Releases

Aldous little bluestem
Atkins prairie cordgrass
Barton western wheatgrass
Bend sand lovegrass
Blackwell switchgrass
Cheyenne Indiangrass
Cimarron little bluestem
El Reno sideoats grama
Eureka thickspike gayfeather
Garden sand bluestem
Kaneb purple prairie clover
Kanlow switchgrass
Kanoka roundhead lespedeza
Kaw big bluestem
Konza aromatic sumac
Lippert bur oak
Midas false sunflower
Nekan pitcher sage
Osage Indiangrass
Pete eastern gamagrass
Pink Lady winterberry euonymous
Pronghorn prairie sandreed
Reno Illinois bundleflower
Texoka buffalo grass
Riley partridge pea
Southwind common reed
Sunglow grayhead prairie coneflower

To obtain information on conservation uses for these varieties, contact your local NRCS office at the USDA Service Center. To obtain seed or plants, contact a commercial seed vendor or nursery in your area.

The Key to Success is Cooperation

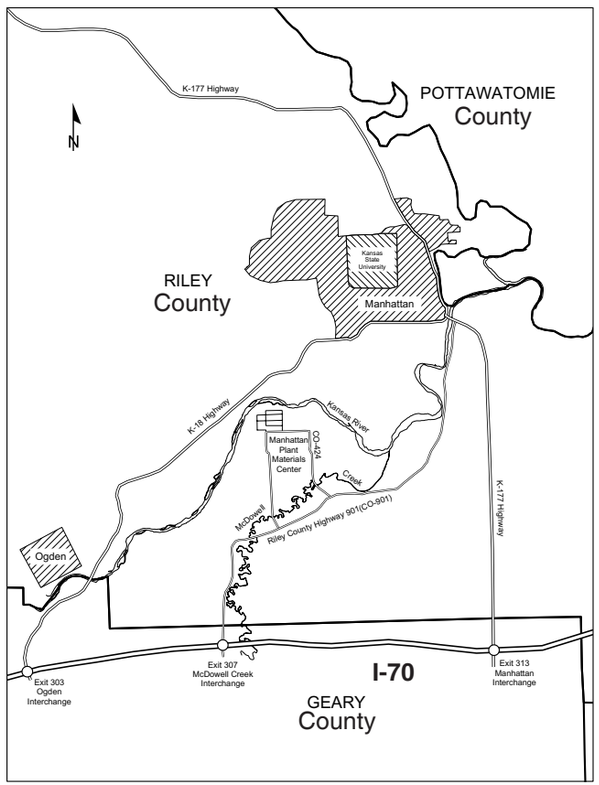
The success of the Plant Materials Program is achieved daily through cooperation at all levels. The following is a partial list of cooperators who have participated in plant materials projects in the past:

Kansas State University
University of Nebraska
Oklahoma State University
U.S. Department of Agriculture -
Agriculture Research Service
Forest Service
U.S. Department of Interior -
National Park Service
Kansas Association of Conservation Districts
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Kansas Crop Improvement Association
Kansas Department of Transportation
Kansas Forest Service

Visitors are always welcome at the Manhattan PMC. The staff is eager to share its enthusiasm for plants and conservation. Public awareness and support are important to the success of the program.

Tours are available Monday through Friday
7:00 AM to 4:00 PM
3800 South 20th Street
Manhattan, Kansas 66502

Please call before visiting the Center to ensure that someone will be available to show you around and answer any questions you may have.
Phone: 785-539-8761
Fax: 785-539-2034
Website: http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/kspmc/



NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

Manhattan Plant Materials Center

Materials Plant Program

Manhattan, Kansas
October 2004

The Manhattan Plant Materials Center (PMC) is one of a national network of plant centers dedicated to providing vegetative solutions to conservation problems. The center is owned and operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

This PMC serves a diverse region of the heartland including Kansas, Nebraska, northern Oklahoma, and eastern Colorado. This area of the country was originally native grasslands. Annual amounts of precipitation in this region can vary greatly. Temperatures fluctuate widely and are often accompanied by high winds. Soil types also vary widely from the clays of northeastern Oklahoma to the coarse, sandy soils found in the Nebraska Sandhills. The extremes of climate and soil offer a challenging and varied environment in which conservation plants must survive and flourish to be effective.

Today, this region's land use is largely devoted to agriculture. The production of food and fiber is the leading industry in the heartland. Land users can enjoy many activities that involve the natural resources of the area, i.e. fishing, hunting, and wildlife. When natural resources are used in a responsible manner, the risk of damage is reduced, and the resource will be conserved for future use and enjoyment. However, some activities can be detrimental to resources and can create erosion or other environmental disturbances. When this occurs, plants can often be used to restore and protect the environment. **The Plant Materials Program's primary focus is to develop hardy, desirable plants that have the ability to survive and prosper under adverse conditions.**

Released plant materials can be used to achieve the following:

- Conservation of highly erosive soils
- Range and pasture improvement
- Field and farmstead buffers
- Wildlife and wetland habitat improvement
- Water and air quality improvement
- Biodiversity improvement
- Invasive species reduction

Program Objectives

The purpose of the plant materials program is:

- to assemble, select, improve, test, and release plant varieties or germplasm for conservation uses,
- to promote the use of improved plant materials to meet the priorities and objectives of the NRCS conservation strategic plan,
- to encourage commercial production,
- to develop management and cultural techniques necessary for establishment and acceptance of promising plant materials, and
- to produce limited quantities of foundation quality seed or seedlings to stimulate commercial production.

Program Products

The PMC and Plant Materials Specialist (PMS) cooperate with a variety of public and private conservation partners to select and produce improved plants for conservation. The program also develops state-of-the-art technology necessary for successful conservation plantings that reduce soil erosion and improve water and air quality. The reward for the producer is improved crop production, lower input costs, and positive environmental impacts to natural resources.

The PMC and PMS also coordinate field activities that provide answers for USDA Service Center staffs on questions such as: saline affected soils, techniques for reducing blow-outs, invasive species control, and other complex resource concerns. Questions posed by field offices are often insightful, since their customers are the producers that face conservation challenges on a daily basis.

The Plant Materials Program has made a significant contribution to the conservation of natural resources in the United States. The program has provided land-based solutions to erosion problems that have plagued this country since the invention of the mold-board plow. With a healthy dose of common sense and applied research, the Plant Materials Program staff has developed and distributed plants that provide solutions to conservation problems.