

# Manhattan

## Plant Materials Center



Manhattan, Kansas



*A newsletter in support of the Plant Materials Program for Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Nebraska*

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### Seed Quality Facts

If you're interested in finding out about the quality of seed being used by producers for seeding projects, where would you look? The answer to that question is the tag or label accompanying the seed.

First, some general information about seed laws. The sale and transfer of seed is governed by state and federal law. The federal law deals with the transportation of seed across state lines while state law deals with the sale of seed. State seed laws vary in their requirements for seed testing, so if you're not sure, check with your State Department of Agriculture. Also, the Specification for Range Seeding (550) should give information on germination test requirements. Producers should be aware of these laws. While states may differ somewhat in their requirements for information on the tag or label, the following items should be shown.

\*The commonly accepted name of the **KIND** and **VARIETY** or the **KIND** and words "VARIETY NOT STATED" for each seed component in excess of 5 percent of the whole mix.

\*The **LOT NUMBER** shown is for identification purposes only. This number can be used to trace the seed back to the originator.

\*The **ORIGIN** must be shown as state or county where the seed originated, or if unknown so stated.

\*The percentage by weight of **PURE SEED** of the variety or kind(s). A high percentage of pure seed will yield best results.

\*The percentage by weight of **WEED SEED**. Each state establishes the allowable weed seed percent. Don't let the percentage of weed seeds fool you. For example, 1 percent pigweed seed in one pound of alfalfa seed would be 11,947 pigweed seeds or at a 5 pound alfalfa seeding rate, you would be planting about 1 1/2 pigweed seeds on each square foot.

\*The percent of **RESTRICTED NOXIOUS WEED**. Each state has developed species and limits on the allowable restricted weed seed percentages. **PROHIBITED NOXIOUS WEED** would prohibit the sale of the seed.

\*The **OTHER CROP SEED** shows percentage by weight of seed other than the tagged variety and weeds seeds. A low or zero percentage is best.

\*The **INERT MATERIAL** is the percentage of sand, stones, dirt, sticks, pods, chaff, and cracked seed. A very low percent of inert material is preferred. Usually light, chaffy native seed have a high amount of inert material present.

\*The **GERMINATION** is the percentage of pure seed that will produce plants under favorable conditions. **Hard seed** represents the percentage of seed that does not germinate during a normal prescribed period because of a hard seed coat. **Hard seed** will generally germinate with extended period of time. **DATE OF TEST** is when the germination test was completed. This date would be used to determine compliance with state and federal seed laws.

\*The **NAME AND ADDRESS** of the person who labeled the seed, who is selling the seed, or who distributed the seed.

Producers buying seed need to ensure the quality of the material. Producers feel that they are protected by state and federal seed laws. This is true if they read and understand the label.

### NRCS Partners With Arbor Day Foundation

The January/February 1998 edition of Arbor Day, the official publication of the National Arbor Day Foundation, contained the story of a newly formed partnership between NRCS and Arbor Day Foundation to promote the conservation and stewardship of natural resources. Paul Johnson,

former chief of the NRCS, signed a cooperative agreement with Helen Boosalis, Arbor Day Foundation Board of Trustees Chair, and John Rosenow, Arbor Day Foundation President, in the lobby of Arbor Day Farm's Lied Conference Center in Nebraska City, NE. Johnson proclaimed that "Joining together in partnership will help us both to further the cause of conservation on private lands." Both organization's goals are to conserve natural resources and improve the land.

The Arbor Day farm will serve as a conservation show case. The Arbor Day Foundation's Lied Conference Center in Nebraska City will become a key facility for NRCS training. Additional field training locations near Lied Conference Center will be created for conservation planning, practice, and system design and lay out. The Arbor Day Farm, surrounding communities, and private lands will have an opportunity to serve as models for conservation techniques which may have application throughout the country. Through these united efforts with the Foundation, NRCS field personnel will be able to learn and implement conservation practices through hands-on experience. By sharing expertise and resources, NRCS and the Arbor Day Foundation will more economically and effectively fulfill their goals. After the agreement signing Arbor Day President John Rosenow proclaimed "I believe that what we have created will have a dramatic positive impact on the conservation of soil, water, and wildlife throughout our nation."

### North American Prairie Conference

The sixteenth North American Prairie Conference is scheduled to be held July 26-30, 1998 at the University of Nebraska, Kearney. Kearney lies in South Central Nebraska at the southern most terminus of the Platte River's Big Bend Region. The area is biologically significant as the major staging area for the spring migration of sandhill cranes. Five major types of prairie lie within a radius of 100 miles of Kearney. These include loess hills mixed-grass prairie, tall grass prairie, the Nebraska sandhills, southern or Kansas mixed-grass prairie, and the sand sage prairie. Opportunities to experience this biological diversity will include a field trip day, with potential trips being planned to upland prairie sites, sandhills, lowland tall grass sites, wet prairie meadows, prairie restorations, and southern mixed-grass sites.

To request further information regarding the sixteenth Prairie Conference write:

Sixteenth North American Prairie Conference  
% Dr. Paul Twigg  
Biology Department  
University of Nebraska at Kearney  
Kearney, NE 68849-1140

Or E-Mail Request To: [twiggp@platte.unk.edu](mailto:twiggp@platte.unk.edu)

### CRP Enhancement Study

NRCS and Kansas State University Southwest Experiment Station at Tribune, Kansas have initiated a study to evaluate the effectiveness of various seeding methods on the establishment of introduced and native legumes/forb species into existing crp stands. The study will look at various pre planting stand treatments such as burning, mowing, chemical burndown, light tillage, late fall vs. early spring treatment and seeding, and drilling vs. broadcasting seeding methods. Both introduced biannual and perennial, and perennial native forbs/legumes will be evaluated for germination and establishment across the various treatments. A portion of the treatments were installed last November with the remaining treatments to be installed this spring/summer. Hopefully some initial results will be available by the end of the year.

### Earth Day '98

The Manhattan PMC will take part in the Earth Day Program on April 22 hosted by Fort Riley. Ranae Cushing, Educational Awareness Coordinator, has organized and coordinated much of the activities for Fort Riley's first Earth Day Celebration. The Center has donated wildflower seed to produce seed packets for general distribution. The Center will also provide written materials concerning the Center and the Plant Materials Program generally for an NRCS display set up by Kevin Religa and John Henry, District Conservationists in Riley and Geary Counties, respectively.



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