

New Display Nursery Planted  
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On November 16, 2004 the Aberdeen Plant Materials Center and the Idaho/Utah Plant Materials Specialist planted a new display nursery at the Orchard test site southeast of Boise. The display nursery is in cooperation with the Great Basin Native Plant Selection and Increase Project.

There were 82 accessions of 27 native and introduced grass, forb and shrub species planted in 7 X 60 foot plots. The purpose of this display nursery is to allow agency personnel and land owners to view these plants in action and see firsthand how the plants perform in the low precipitation environment (10 – 12 inch annual precipitation) of Southwestern Idaho. The display will also be useful in comparing different releases from within a species as well as comparing native and introduced species with similar environmental requirements.

The Great Basin Native Plant Selection and Increase Project is a group of cooperators from the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Agricultural Research Service, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Utah Crop Improvement Association and the Natural Resources Conservation Service who are collaborating to develop and increase native plant materials for the Great Basin and Intermountain West.

With a little luck plants should begin germinating next spring, and most species should reach maturity within one or two years. All are encouraged to visit the display nursery. Directions and plot maps can be obtained by calling the Aberdeen PMC or the Idaho/Utah Plant Materials Specialist located at the Idaho State Office.

