

**Development of native forb and legume germplasm
at the Bismarck Plant Materials Center.**

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The Bismarck Plant Materials Center (PMC) is working in cooperation with Agriculture Experiment Stations from North Dakota and South Dakota to release varieties of purple prairieclover (*Dalea purpurea*), narrow-leaved coneflower (*Echinacea angustifolia*), Maximilian sunflower (*Helianthus maximiliana*), and stiff sunflower (*Helianthus pauciflorus*). White prairieclover (*Dalea candida*) will be jointly released with the Bridger PMC and Agriculture Experiment Stations from Montana and North Dakota. Purple prairieclover was collected from Lyman County in central South Dakota and has been grown for seed production at the Bismarck PMC since 1988. Narrow-leaved coneflower is a composite of collections in North Dakota and has been grown for seed production at the Bismarck PMC since 1997. Maximilian sunflower has been grown at the Bismarck PMC since 1983 and was collected in Hughes County located in central South Dakota. Stiff sunflower is a North Dakota composite grown for seed production since 1986. White prairieclover was collected in west central North Dakota and has been grown at the Bridger PMC. The release of these 5 forb species will help fill a growing demand for northern adapted seed sources that will add diversity to wildlife plantings, range seedings, etc. It is anticipated seed will be available to commercial growers next fall (2000) through the Plant Materials Program and cooperating agencies.