

RIPARIAN SHRUB RELEASES FROM THE BISMARCK PMC

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ABSTRACT: The objective of new shrub releases from the USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center (PMC) at Bismarck, North Dakota is to develop improved and performance tested sources adapted to conservation plantings in plant hardiness zones 3 and 4. Recent releases that are recommended for riparian plantings include 'Survivor' false indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*), 'Silver Sands' sandbar willow (*Salix interior*), 'Prairie Red' hybrid plum (*Prunus* x 'Prairie Red'), and 'McKenzie' black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*). Release is pending on the 'McKenzie' black chokeberry. Outstanding characteristics for each of the new releases include the following:

1. 'Survivor' false indigo: broadly adapted to well drained sites from rich, organic soils to infertile, dry and sandy soils; can withstand inundation, covering by sedimentation, and girdling by animals; competes with smooth brome grass (*Bromus inermis*).
2. 'Silver Sands' sandbar willow: silvery blue leaves turning yellow in fall; forms dense thickets for excellent wildlife protection and cover; and suckering habit provides good soil stabilization on wet sites.
3. 'Prairie Red' hybrid plum: compared to American plum, this release has larger plant size; larger fruit with higher quality; and less suckering.
4. 'McKenzie' black chokeberry: a smaller shrub that can be used in single row wind barriers; produces high quality, abundant fruit at an early age; and has showy red fall foliage.

Seed and plants are available from commercial conservation nurseries.

KEY TERMS: soil stabilization; riparian plantings; shrub releases; wind barriers; wildlife cover.

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