

Scouting Virginia Wildrye

The PMC is requesting your help in collecting Virginia wildrye.

Maturity stages of Virginia wildrye plants that were recently observed varied from late boot (northeast ND) to full anthesis (west central SD). Maturity has been delayed because of the generally late growing season this year. Prime seed collection time would appear to be

mid to late August. Virginia wildrye likes shade. Three of the sites were tree understory streambanks, and the fourth was in a partial shade riparian area. Plants growing in fuller sunlight are larger, and lighter green in color compared to plants growing in the shade. Primary associated grass species were Canada wildrye and quackgrass. Height varied from 1 to 3 feet depending on the site. Look alike species are Canada wildrye, in early maturity before the long, bent awns are fully mature and the seed head starts to droop; and bearded wheatgrass which is also quite common in shaded, riparian understories. Virginia wildrye generally has shorter, straight awns compared to Canada wildrye's longer, bent awns. The glumes on Virginia wildrye are bowed out (horseshoe shaped) at the base. Virginia wildrye is highly variable and several subspecies have been described. One or two seed collections (100 to 200 seeds) from a county would be great. Send to the PMC.

Dwight Tober, Plant Materials Specialist



Canada wildrye (left) and Virginia wildrye (right)

Riparian Forest Management Summit

Great Plains riparian forests are essential ecosystem components that protect water quality and provide wildlife habitat. Today's agriculture is transforming landscapes to such a degree that many riparian areas are becoming devoid of perennial vegetation. Planting trees and/or grass after conversion of cropland may not restore a riparian ecosystem. It is important to know how riparian forest buffers fit into the altered landscape, how they impact water quality and wildlife, and whether restoration is physically or economically possible. Hear from experts on riparian forest management at the Great Plains Riparian Forest Management Summit,

September 9-11, 2008, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The Summit is sponsored by the USDA National Agroforestry Center, US Forest Service, South Dakota Resource Conservation and Forestry, and Dakota's Society of American Foresters, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. For registration and agenda information, visit www.unl.edu/nac/Riparian_Summit.htm or contact Craig Stange (USDA-NRCS) at (701)530-2082. *Mike Knudson, Forester*

Need Information?

The Plant Materials Center has numerous publications on various topics that are available to field offices, as well as partners and the general public. Cultivar information, vendor/grower lists, biomass trials, prairie landscaping, and plants for salt-affected sites are a few of the topics covered in these publications. A number of display posters are also available for meetings, conferences, ag nights, etc.

The publications available are detailed in the attached list. Hard copies can be obtained by contacting the PMC via email (leslie.glass@nd.usda.gov or rachel.bergsagel@nd.usda.gov) or phone (701)250-4330. Many of these can also be found on the web site at <http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/ndpmc/publications.html>. *Rachel Bergsagel, Biological Technician*

'McKenzie' Black Chokeberry To Be Released

The Bismarck PMC is in the process of cooperatively releasing 'McKenzie' black chokeberry in 2008. It is an attractive native shrub capable of producing large fruit crops. Look for this release at your local conservation nurseries



and give it a try in your conservation plantings where adapted. This shrub is commonly known as aroniaberry in the nursery trade. Some growers in Iowa have organized an Aronia Festival.

Mike Knudson, Forester

Publications Available from the Plant Materials Center

	<i>The publications listed below are available in hardcopy format from the Bismarck Plant Materials Center (PMC). Please contact the PMC via email (leslie.glass@nd.usda.gov or rachel.bergsagel@nd.usda.gov) or phone (701-250-4330) to obtain copies. Some items are available electronically as indicated in the footnotes.</i>	
Bin #	<u>Grass Information</u>	
1	Bad River Ecotype Blue Grama	release brochure
2	Badlands Ecotype Little Bluestem	release brochure
3	Bismarck Ecotype Buffalograss	release brochure
4	Bison Big Bluestem+	release brochure
5	Bonilla Big Bluestem	release brochure
6	Dacotah Switchgrass	release brochure
7	Forestburg Switchgrass	release brochure
8	Itasca Germplasm Little Bluestem+	release brochure
9	Lodorm Green Needlegrass+	release brochure
10	Mandan Canada Wildrye+	release brochure
11	Mankota Russian Wildrye	release brochure
12	Manska Pubescent Wheatgrass	release brochure
13	Pierre Sideoats Grama	release brochure
14	Red River Natural Germplasm Prairie Cordgrass**	release brochure
15	Reliant Intermediate Wheatgrass	release brochure
16	Rodan Western Wheatgrass	release brochure
17	Tomahawk Indiangrass	release brochure
27	Nordan Crested Wheatgrass+	release brochure
68	Green Needlegrass*	plant guide/flyer
67	Prairie Cordgrass*	plant guide/flyer
88	Prairie Sandreed*	plant guide/flyer
18	Big Bluestem: High Quality Summer Forage for the Northern Plains**	brochure
19	Five Keys to Successful Grass Seeding**	brochure
71	Growers of Bismarck Plant Materials Center Grass & Forb Releases-Jan 2006+#	flyer
73	Conservation Seed/Plant Vendors List for ND, SD, and MN - Mar. 2006+#	flyer
87	Prairie Landscaping Seed/Plant Vendors List - ND, SD, and MN - Mar. 2006+	flyer
89	Perennial Native Grasses for Landscaping Accents+	flyer
90	Switchgrass Biomass Trials in ND, SD, and MN+	20-pg booklet
92	Grasses for the Northern Plains Vol. 1 - Cool-season+	book
31	Five Reasons to Choose Native Grass Releases+	brochure
93	Big Bluestem Biomass Trials in ND, SD, and MN+	20-pg booklet
	<u>Woody Information</u>	
45	Cardan Green Ash	release brochure
46	Centennial Cotoneaster	release brochure
47	Homestead Arnold Hawthorn	release brochure
48	Legacy Late Lilac**	release brochure
49	McDermid Ussurian (Harbin) Pear	release brochure
50	Midwest Manchurian Crabapple	release brochure
51	Oahe Hackberry	release brochure
52	Regal Russian Almond	release brochure
53	Sakakawea Silver Buffaloberry	release brochure
54	Silver Sands Sandbar Willow/Survivor False Indigo+	release brochure
32	Prairie Red hybrid plum+	release brochure
33	McKenzie black chokeberry+	release brochure
72	Black Chokeberry*+	plant guide/flyer
86	Silver Buffaloberry*+	plant guide/flyer
73	Conservation Seed/Plant Vendors List for ND, SD, and MN - Mar. 2006+#	flyer
87	Prairie Landscaping Seed/Plant Vendors List - ND, SD, and MN - Mar. 2006+	flyer

*available at <http://plants.usda.gov>

+available at <http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/ndpmc/publications.html>

#available at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg/>

Publications Available from the Plant Materials Center

	<u>Woody Information - continued</u>	
84	Warm-Season Grass Cover Between Tree Rows Fact Sheet+#	flyer
85	Species Alternatives for Russian Olive in Conservation Plantings+#	flyer
91	Fugle's Mill Demonstration Site, 1985-2006	report
	<u>Forb Information</u>	
69	Canadian Milkvetch*	plant fact sheet
70	Stiff Sunflower*	plant fact sheet
78	Planting Guide - PMC Forb Releases from Bismarck and Bridger+	flyer
71	Growers of Bismarck Plant Materials Center Grass & Forb Releases-Jan 2006+#	flyer
73	Conservation Seed/Plant Vendors List for ND, SD, and MN - Mar. 2006+#	flyer
34	Antelope Germplasm Slender White Prairieclover	release brochure
87	Prairie Landscaping Seed/Plant Vendors List - ND, SD, and MN - Mar. 2006+	flyer
	<u>Landscaping Information</u>	
20	Native Grasses for Prairie Landscaping	brochure
74	Prairie Landscaping and Reduced Maintenance Cover Plantings	flyer
82	Living Landscapes in North Dakota: A Guide to Native Plantscaping+	booklet
89	Perennial Native Grasses for Landscaping Accents+	flyer
30	Rain Gardens - Capturing and Using the Rains of the Great Plains+	brochure
	<u>Miscellaneous Publications</u>	
21	Bismarck Plant Materials Center**	brochure
75	Field Day - June 17, 2004 at Plant Materials Center (16 pages)**	booklet
22	Getting Started in Prairie Revegetation: A Recipe for Success (12 pages, 50/pkg)+	booklet
76	Northland News 2007/2008 (12 pages)+	booklet
23	Plant Materials Program - Plant Solutions for Conservation Needs	brochure
24	Plants for Conservation Buffers+	brochure
83	Perennial Food Plot Study, Annual Report 2006+	report
26	Origins of Native Grass and Forb Releases (50/pkg)+	booklet
28	SageGrouse Habitat Restoration - Getting Started in the Dakotas+	brochure
29	Plant Materials for Salt-Affected Sites in the Northern Great Plains+	brochure

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Publications Available from the Plant Materials Center

	Poster	
slant/wall blk	Bismarck Plant Materials Center Releases	poster (2'x3')
	Display Posters (available for short-term loan for meetings, conferences, etc.)	
	<p><i>Title:</i> <u>Native Shrubs for Conservation</u> <i>Content:</i> Results of direct seeding of 5 native shrubs into native grasses. <i>Size:</i> 31" x 40"</p>	
	<p><i>Title:</i> <u>Establishment of Prairie Cordgrass <i>Spartina pectinata</i></u> <i>Content:</i> Details the establishment process of prairie cordgrass by seed and vegetative propagation. <i>Size:</i> 36" x 73"</p>	
	<p><i>Title:</i> <u>The Big Bluestem Story - Developing a Big Bluestem Release</u> <i>Content:</i> Details the plant materials release process using big bluestem as an example. <i>Size:</i> 35" x 48"</p>	
	<p><i>Title:</i> <u>Forage Grasses Released by the Bismarck PMC and Partners</u> <i>Content:</i> Descriptions of varieties of forage grasses and their potential conservation use. <i>Size:</i> 38" x 63"</p>	
	<p><i>Title:</i> <u>Conserving the Heritage of Native Plants</u> <i>Content:</i> Information about culturally significant species being evaluated by PMCs in the N. Great Plains. <i>Size:</i> 38" x 63"</p>	
	<p><i>Title:</i> <u>Vegetative Solutions for Conservation Problems</u> <i>Content:</i> Overview of the Plant Materials process. <i>Size:</i> 56" x 28"</p>	
	<p><i>Title:</i> <u>Biomass Potential of Switchgrass <i>Panicum virgatum</i></u> <i>Content:</i> Describes switchgrass, how to establish/manage a successful stand, and summarizes performance of 6 varieties at six locations in MN, ND, and SD. <i>Size:</i> 56" x 28"</p>	
	<p><i>Title:</i> <u>Riparian Shrub Releases from the Plant Materials Center</u> <i>Content:</i> Information about four shrub cultivars released by the PMC and their uses. <i>Size:</i> 48" x 36"</p>	

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