

Plant Materials Program Awards for 2004

Plant Materials Out Standing Team- Presented in recognition of the best overall performance by a plant materials center, plant materials specialist, and associated program over the past year. There were no entries.

Plant Materials Outstanding Employee- Presented to the Plant Materials employee who has demonstrated excellent leadership and skill in contributing to the Plant Materials Program over the last year. The winner is **Joe Scianna**, Research Horticulturist, Bridger PMC, Bridger, MT. Joe **revitalized the MITOSIS** (Montana Interagency Tree and Shrub Improvement Study) program, working to improve the quality and availability of conservation trees and shrubs. Joe is a prolific writer, **composing 10 articles** (including 4 Tech Notes) some of which were published in the Native Plants Journal and American Nurseryman. Some articles were presented to all the Conservation Districts in MT and WY. Joe made several oral presentations to the Home and Garden Symposium in Billings and Landscaping Workshop in Wyoming.

Plant Materials Meritorious Service- Presented to a Plant Materials employee who has made a significant and tangible contribution to the discipline over a long period of time. The winner for 2004 is **Don Surrency**, PMS, Georgia, Alabama, and South Carolina for more than 15 years of service to the Program. Don has contributed much over the years including **outreach to limited resource farmers and promotion of constructed wetlands**. His projects include encouraging many state and federal agencies and conservation partners to use constructed wetlands for residential and commercial businesses for water quality improvement. Don is also active in outreach to small farmers and promoting the use of plant materials for conservation, especially new plant releases and related technology for conservation and enhancement of natural resources.

Plant Materials Special Service- Presented to a non-plant materials person (either within NRCS or outside the agency) whose efforts have or are substantially advancing the plant materials program. There are two winners in this category. The first is **Lee Brooks**. Lee recently retired from NRCS as Assistant State Conservationist for Technical Services in Idaho. Lee was the Plant Materials Program Leader to the Aberdeen, Idaho PMC for over 9 years. His career spanned over 37 years and he has always been a strong supporter of the Program. Under Lee's **leadership the Idaho PMP has expanded through increased staffing, upgraded equipment, increased technology transfer and expanded cooperation with non traditional partners**. The Aberdeen PMC is a model used by other centers and is an outstanding training site for both internal and external customers.

The second winner is **Jay Mar**, RC&D Coordinator in Fargo, ND. Jay has been actively involved with the plant materials program since spending a summer at the Bismarck PMC more than 20 years ago. He serves on the North Dakota State Plant Materials Committee and annually develops project proposals **using the products and technology of the Plant Materials Program**. Some of his projects include: a xeriscape garden at the Fargo Water Treatment Plant; a native prairie restoration at the Yunkers Children

Museum; the use of buffalograss and blue grama as an alternative turf species; and working with the Fargo Forestry Department to initiate streambank stabilization trials using Bismarck PMC releases.

Plant Materials Notable Achievement- Presented for efforts by an individual in completion of a specific plant materials product or specific activity. The winner for 2004 is the team of **Larry Holzworth**, PMS, Bozeman, MT and **Chris Miller**, PMS, Somerset, NJ **for their work on the agencies conservation boot camp for new employees.** Larry spent several weeks in planning meetings, developing a training outline, and course materials for the plant materials portion of the training. Chris was the first instructor for the course. Using time allotments that were changing weekly, Chris fine tuned the course and covered the highlights of technology transfer and hands on seed collection, cleaning, propagation and testing.