

Native Cherry Species Offered Again for 2009

Black cherry (*Prunus serotina*) and pin cherry (*Prunus pennsylvanica*) will again be offered for field plantings in 2009. Field planting evaluations for 2008 are still being completed, but the initial establishment results for both species looks good. Black cherry overall has been rated higher than the pin cherry. Both species have attractive spring flowers and produce edible fruit desirable to many wildlife species. The black cherry is not a high preference deer or rabbit browse and young trees often escape damage. It also has a growth habit similar to green ash and is being recommended as an alternative species. Additional information for both species can be found in the attached "Plant Materials Available for North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota." Minnesota contacts will be receiving a separate bulletin with this information.

Dwight Tober, Plant Materials Specialist



Black cherry seedlings off to a good start in a field planting near Warren, Minnesota

Seeding Silver Buffaloberry

Silver buffaloberry (*Shepherdia argentea*) has been successfully established from seed in test plots and variance seedings in North Dakota. This species has performed the best of numerous native shrub entries tested. Both spring and fall dormant plantings worked well. Variance guidelines recommend that the shrub seed be planted with 1/2-rate of grass seed. Silver buffaloberry has 41,000 seeds/lb. The recommended "spot" seeding rate of 4.2 PLS lbs/ac will plant 4 seeds/ft². The area seeded to buffaloberry should be mowed in mid-June the first two years following seeding to reduce the shading effect and level of competition. Silver

buffaloberry is a strongly suckering native shrub species desirable for wildlife cover and habitat. It produces a small, generally red-colored fruit edible to humans and wildlife. Establishing "thickets" of silver buffaloberry from seed is significantly less expensive than traditional machine planting with associated weed control. Suggested landscape position is mid to high prairies on well drained soils.

Dwight Tober, Plant Materials Specialist



A five-year old thicket of two to three-foot buffaloberry plants established from seed near Cooperstown, North Dakota

Seed/Plant Vendors Lists Updated

The "Conservation Seed/Plant Vendors List", and the "Prairie Landscaping Seed/Plant Vendors List" for North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota have been updated for 2008. The lists are found on the Bismarck PMC homepage website, or in each States' eFOTG in Section 1 under References, and then Plant Materials. Plant materials are coded for each vendor including Certified Seed, Seed, Vegetative Trees and Shrubs, Vegetative Herbaceous Plants, and Vegetative Wetland Plants. Websites and/or e-mail addresses are hot linked for each vendor. Changes or additions can be requested at any time by contacting me.

Dwight Tober, Plant Materials Specialist

Reminder:

PM-9's for plant materials requests are due prior to:
December 3rd (North Dakota)
December 9th (Minnesota)
January 7th (South Dakota)

Plant Materials Available for North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota - 2009

I. Field Plantings

Plant Material	Purpose	Sites Needed	Plants per site	Preferred MLRA
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SHRUBS AND TREES

Black Cherry 9076737	Wildlife (WLDF) Windbreak, Multi-row (WBMR)	six in each State	25 plants	statewide (ND, SD, MN)
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Black cherry (*Prunus serotina*) is a native, medium sized tree (30'-60') in the Northern Great Plains. It is a large tree in the eastern part of the country. Its habit is conical to pyramidal when young, and more oval at maturity. The growth form is similar to green ash. It is a fast growing tree which produces attractive white flowers and dark fruit. The fruit is attractive to songbirds and can be used to make juice and syrup. The leaves are shiny, dark green with some red/yellow fall color possible. The dark colored bark is attractive and the wood is valuable on larger trees. Black cherry is not a high preference deer or rabbit browse and young trees often escape damage. The original seed source is from Minnesota. Site preference for the test plots is on more productive soils; however, some drier sites are desired to test drought tolerance. Good weed control is desirable. Plant spacing would be as specified by individual State standards in the FOTG for small trees. Plants are conservation grade 1-year old bareroot seedlings. Approximate size is 12-22 inches @ 3/16-inch. Written documentation of plant performance is requested annually for 5 years. Data forms will be provided.

Pin Cherry 9091967	Wildlife (WLDF) Windbreak, Multi-row (WBMR)	six in each State	25 plants	statewide (ND, SD, MN)
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Pin cherry (*Prunus pennsylvanica*) is a native, fast growing small tree or medium shrub (15'-30') which produces attractive white flowers in the spring and showy red fruit in the summer. It is often multi-stemmed and suckering with a rounded crown. Western origin sources tend to be smaller than eastern sources. The bark is thin, reddish-brown and breaks into papery layers. The original seed source is from near Bemidji, Minnesota. Site preference on the test plots is for a diversity of soils except poorly drained. Good weed control is desirable. Plant spacing would be as specified for medium shrubs in individual State standards in the FOTG. Plants are conservation grade 1-year old bareroot seedlings. Approximate size is 12-20 inches @ 3/16-inch. Written documentation of plant performance is requested for 5 years. Data forms will be provided.

- Submit your plant materials requests through the area plant materials contact person on a form ECS-9 which can be found with fillable format in the document box on the Bismarck PMC homepage (<http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/ndpmc/>). Requests will be considered during the State Plant Materials Committee meeting.

II. Foundation Seed for Certified Seed Production - 2009

VARIETY	COMMON NAME
Native - Grasses	
Badlands ecotype	little bluestem
Itasca germplasm	little bluestem
Bad River ecotype	blue grama
Bison	big bluestem
Bonilla	big bluestem
Dacotah	switchgrass
Forestburg	switchgrass
Mandan	Canada wildrye
Pierre	sideoats grama
Red River germplasm	prairie cordgrass
Rodan	western wheatgrass
Tomahawk	Indiangrass
Lodorm	green needlegrass
Native - Forbs/Legumes	
Bismarck germplasm	purple prairieclover
Bismarck germplasm	stiff sunflower
Medicine Creek germplasm	Maximilian sunflower
Bismarck germplasm	narrow-leaved purple coneflower
Introduced - Grasses	
Mankota	Russian wildrye
Manifest	intermediate wheatgrass
Manska	pubescent/intermediate wheatgrass
Reliant	pubescent/intermediate wheatgrass
Nordan	crested wheatgrass

- All foundation seed is sold through the NDSU Foundation Seedstocks Program and payment must be received before the seed is shipped. Price adjustments are made in January of each year.
- ECS-9 forms are no longer required for foundation seed requests. Seed growers or field office personnel should contact the Plant Materials Specialist directly.

III. Special Plantings - 2009

Small amounts of various seeds and plants will be provided for special purposes such as demonstration, promotion, and research. No data collection is required. A completed ECS-9 form is preferred whenever possible. Requests for special plantings should be made through the plant materials contact person, the Plant Materials Specialist, or Plant Materials Center staff. Call for species/variety availability. **It would be helpful to have your special planting order confirmed prior to March 1, 2009.**

Plant Material	Purpose	Plants or PLS# Available	Maximum per site	Preferred MLRA
GRASSES				
Sweetgrass 9063128	Culturally Significant (CUSI)	Per Committee recommendation	10 plants	statewide
FORBS				
White Sage 9082748	Culturally Significant (CUSI)	Per Committee recommendation	10 plants	statewide

Sweetgrass (*Hierochloe odorata*) is an early cool-season grass that is characteristic of wet, sandy soil near riverbanks and lakeshores. Uses of sweetgrass are numerous. The source of sweetgrass's aroma, which smells like vanilla, is called coumarin. This plant compound has been used for hundreds of years as a plant extract for both fragrance and medicinal use. Native American cultures burn braided sweetgrass twists in traditional ceremonies, using the sweet scented smoke as a purifying incense. This accession of sweetgrass was originally collected along the Missouri River near Bismarck, ND. Plants should be spaced 1 to 3 feet apart on a prepared garden-like site, and hand watered until established. Sweetgrass spreads rapidly by underground rhizomes. After establishment, plants increase rapidly if weeds are controlled. It is not unusual for 10 plants to increase to hundreds of plants the second year, and thousands of plants the third year. Successful plantings may be used as propagation beds after establishment. Cooperators are limited to 10 plants each. Plants will be shipped in small pots approximately 2 ½ inches square and 3 inches deep.

White sage (*Artemisia ludoviciana*) is an herbaceous, silver-white fuzzy rhizomatous forb with 10 to 30-inch leafy stems branching upward. Numerous tiny, gray, flower heads are produced in August to September. Growth form is quite variable depending on site and climatic conditions. It is drought tolerant and likes sandy soil, but persists on a variety of sites. “Man Sage” as it is called by the Cheyenne, is an important ceremonial plant and was used medicinally for various ailments by Native Americans. It has a strong sage aroma. This source is a vegetative composite of plants collected on or near five reservations in the three-State area. Plants should be spaced 1 to 3 feet apart on a prepared garden-like site, and hand watered until established. White sage spreads aggressively from rhizomes beginning the second year if weeds are controlled. Successful plantings may be used as propagation beds after establishment. Cooperators are limited to 10 plants each. Plants will be shipped in small pots approximately 2 ½ inches square and 3 inches deep.