

# NPDC NewsNote

A periodic note for NRCS State PLANTS Coordinators  
17 February 2004



## Poisonous Plants

A large work on the subject was recently published: Burrows, G.E. & R.J. Tyrl. 2001. *Toxic plants of North America*. Iowa State Press, Ames, IA. 1342pp. Each chapter addresses a specific family, which is then divided by genus. If specific species warrant more detail, then illustrations and further information may be included. Each chapter discusses taxonomy, identification, disease problems, clinical signs, and

treatment. If you consult one book on poisonous plants, this is the one to keep in mind.

## Threatened and Endangered Plants

We have recently updated the T&E portion of PLANTS to encompass current Federal and State lists. Two primary sources for additional information on species of national concern are as follows:

Center for Plant Conservation – [Endangered Plant Profiles](#)

USFWS Threatened & Endangered Species System – [Listed Plant Report](#)

These sets of links and others will be added to “Other Species Accounts and Images” box on the Plant Profile for pertinent species in the near future.

## Flora of North America-Volume 4

The next volume of FNA is now on the street. Click on this link to view a list of the genera in [Volume 4](#). This volume contains descriptions, keys, and line drawings and was coordinated by the Northern Arizona University, The Arboretum at Flagstaff. Click here to view a list of the [upcoming volumes](#). The three volume set encompassing the Asteraceae should be published in 2005. Click here for a list of the [published volumes](#) that have been published by [Oxford University Press](#). Volumes 1, 2, 3, 22 23, and 26 are online at the [FNA Web site](#). Unfortunately, Volume 25, the first of two encompassing the Poaceae, is not yet online.

## **PLANTS Database Redesign**

The database underlying PLANTS was initially designed 14 years ago and the baling wire and duct tape is getting to be a bit much. Over the past two years, we have flushed out new design requirements. These are available at the NPDC Web site under [Documentation](#). Due to lack of funding, we will be stringing the redesign out over the next five years. Our first task is revising the name and reference part (i.e. the checklist) of the database, since it provides the foundation for everything else. Among other things, this will enable us to support multiple common names by geographic area and language.

## **Innovations in American Government**

The [Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation](#) at the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government has selected the PLANTS website as one of the Top 50 innovative programs in federal government. The competition is government-wide, and over 1000 programs and initiatives were originally considered. Innovations in American Government seeks to restore public confidence in the effectiveness of government and to expand the use of exciting and innovative government programs

## **Your Feedback is Needed**

Please send comments regarding PLANTS, NPDC NewsNotes, or other plant-related issues to [scott.peterson@usda.gov](mailto:scott.peterson@usda.gov).

USDA NRCS [National Plant Data Center](#)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.