

DEVELOPMENT OF NATIVE FORB AND LEGUME GERMPLASM AT THE BISMARCK PLANT MATERIALS CENTER.

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The Bismarck Plant Materials Center is currently working on the release of 5 selected native forbs for conservation use. No formal releases of these species are currently available for use in the Northern Great Plains. The Bismarck PMC in cooperation with Agriculture Experiment Stations from ND and SD, will be releasing purple prairieclover (*Dalea purpurea*), narrow-leaved coneflower (*Echinacea angustifolia*), Maximilian sunflower (*Helianthus maximiliana*), a stiff sunflower (*Helianthus pauciflorus*). White prairieclover (*Dalea candida*) will be jointly released with the Bridger Plant Materials Center and Agriculture Experiment Stations from Montana and North Dakota. Purple prairieclover is selected germplasm collected from Lyman County in central South Dakota and has been grown for seed production at the Bismarck PMC since 1988. Narrow-leaved coneflower is a composite of collections in North Dakota and has been grown for seed production at the Bismarck PMC since 1997. Maximilian sunflower has been grown at the Bismarck PMC since 1983 and was collected in Hughes County located in central South Dakota. Stiff sunflower is a North Dakota composite grown for seed production since 1986. White prairieclover was collected in Stark County in west central ND and has been grown at the Bridger Plant Materials Center. The Bridger PMC will have primary release responsibility for the white prairieclover. The release of these 5 forb species will help fill a growing demand for a dependable northern adapted seed source of selected forbs that will add diversity to wildlife plantings, range seedings, prairie restoration, prairie landscaping, Conservation Reserve Program plantings as well as providing alternative crops to producers growing these species. These selections will be released through the Pre-Varietal Release Process as Selected Class Germplasm or Tested Class releases. It is anticipated seed will be available to commercial growers next fall (2000) through the USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Program and cooperating agencies.