

Plant Materials Program Awards for 2005

Plant Materials Outstanding Team - Presented in recognition of the best overall performance by a plant materials center, plant materials specialist, and associated program over the past year. South Texas Natives has excelled at providing economically viable sources of plants and seeds and developing effective planting strategies for the restoration of ecosystems on public and private lands. Under the direction of Paula Maywald, the project fosters a spirit of cooperation and partnership among state and federal agencies, universities, and private landowners and businesses to facilitate the restoration of native habitats in south Texas and assist in the mission of the NRCS Plant Materials Program.

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 Scott Edwards, Plant Materials Specialist in Louisiana. Scott is recognized in 2005 for his outstanding leadership, skill, and dedication in contributing to the Plant Materials Program both in Louisiana and nationally. His efforts to promote partnerships, carry out studies and activities, and enhance technology transfer greatly contribute to getting conservation on the ground and promoting the mission of NRCS.

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. There were no entries for 2005.

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. The winner for 2005 is Allan Gustafson, Area Resource Conservationist, Area 1, MN. Allan is recognized for consistent promotion of the Plant Materials Program throughout his career and annually providing assistance to the Bismarck Plant Materials Center, the Minnesota State Office, Area 1 staff, and numerous landowners.

Plant Materials Notable Achievement - Presented for efforts by an individual in completion of a specific plant materials product or specific activity. There are 2 winners for 2005.

Mark Stannard is the Manager of the Pullman Plant Materials Center, Pullman, WA. Mark is recognized in 2005 for his outstanding efforts at coordinating the update and revision of the Plant Materials Program Strategic Plan. His dedication and insights were instrumental to pull together the plan.

Jerry Kaiser is the Plant Materials Specialist for Missouri, Illinois, and Iowa. Jerry is recognized for his efforts during 2005 to coordinate the production of "Central Region Seedling ID Guide for Native Prairie Plants". This outstanding guide will serve as a useful tool for NRCS staff and partners to enhance technical assistance for conservation programs and activities.