

## NRCS Plant Materials Program - 2008 Awards

March 16, 2009

### **The Plant Materials Program is pleased to announce the following recipients of the 2008 Plant Materials Awards.**

#### Outstanding Plant Materials Team Award – Aberdeen, Idaho Plant Materials Center

The Aberdeen Plant Materials Center is recognized for its continued efforts in 2008 to provide outstanding technical assistance and support to the Intermountain West and beyond. The PMC and its staff consistently excel in all they do and exemplify the excellence of NRCS and the Plant Materials Program.

#### Meritorious Service Award – Russ Haas, National Park Service Liaison

Russ is recognized for 35 years of outstanding service to the USDA-NRCS and the Plant Materials Program as PMC Manager and Plant Materials Specialist in North Dakota and as the liaison to the National Park Service. His efforts have guided the success of plant materials activities in the Northern Great Plains. Russ has been an excellent resource and leader in cooperative efforts between PMCs and the NPS.

#### Meritorious Service Award – Pam Stewart, Elsberry, MO Plant Materials Center

Pam is recognized for over 33 years of outstanding service to the USDA-NRCS and the Elsberry, Missouri Plant Materials Center. Her efforts at the PMC have been instrumental in providing superior products and plant materials support to Missouri, Iowa and Illinois. Pam's assistance to the Plant Materials Program has helped with data management activities within the program and information transfer to its customers.

#### Meritorious Service Award – Mary Anne Gonter, Brooksville, FL Plant Materials Center

Mary Anne is recognized for over 26 years of outstanding service to the USDA-NRCS and the Brooksville, Florida Plant Materials Center. Her extensive experience with the evaluation and production of Florida native plants has established her as an expert in the state. In addition, Mary Anne has been a leader in providing tours, training and outreach which has made the PMC so successful at its mission.

#### Notable Achievement Award – Los Lunas, New Mexico Plant Materials Center

The Los Lunas PMC is recognized for exceptional achievement in preparing written technical products in 2008, most notably "A Guide for Planning Riparian Treatments in New Mexico". This document exemplifies the excellence of the Plant Materials Program and will serve as an outstanding resource for planners and conservationists.

#### Special Service Award – Steve Poppe, West Central Research & Outreach Center, University of Minnesota

Steve is recognized for his outstanding support for the NRCS Plant Materials Program and plant materials work in Minnesota and the Northern Lake States. Over the past 30 years, Steve has coordinated woody plant evaluations leading to 14 new plant releases, integrated NRCS information into his University programs, and provided valuable guidance and technical information to the Minnesota Plant Materials Committee.

Special Service Award – Alan Schlegel, Southwest Research & Extension Center, Kansas State University

Alan is recognized for over 15 years support to the Manhattan, Kansas Plant Materials Center and to the mission of NRCS. His outstanding efforts and support with evaluating woody plant trials, assisting in CRP enhancement studies, and advancing the work of the PMC have resulted in improving NRCS conservation recommendations and specifications for Kansas.

**New this year – the following are based on 2008 Plant Materials Performance Index scores.**

Certificate of Performance: Technology and Information Transfer - For outstanding performance on Training and Presentations in fiscal year 2008.

West Region – Tucson Plant Materials Center, Arizona

Central Region – Elsberry Plant Materials Center, Missouri

East Region – Big Flats Plant Materials Center, New York

Certificate of Performance: Technical Document Preparation - For outstanding performance preparing Scientific and Popular Documents in fiscal year 2008.

West Region – Ho'olehua Plant Materials Center, Hawaii

Central Region – Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center, Kingsville, TX

East Region – Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center, Americus, GA