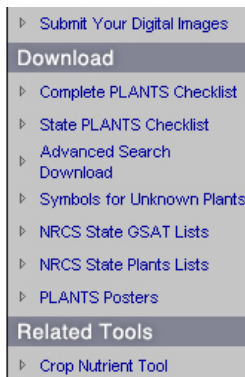


25 July 2007

1. Download Area of PLANTS Updated



Another area of [PLANTS](#) has been modernized. Go to the PLANTS Home page and click on the [Download](#) heading in the left navigation box for a description of the updated download area.

Several new items have been added to the left navigation box:

- a) The “State PLANTS GSAT Lists” has been renamed to the “[NRCS State GSAT Lists](#).”
- b) New to this area is the “[NRCS State Plants Lists](#).” It provides you with a PLANTS list for your state containing your state common names. Each NRCS State Office has a [State PLANTS Coordinator](#) who maintains State Common Names that may populate this list. If the State Common Name has not been populated, the National Common Name will appear as the default.
- c) We’ve also made the download portion of the Advanced Search accessible in this area titled as “Advanced Search Download.”

2. PLANTS Image Gallery Updated

Due to inherent bugs in the Internet Explorer 6 browser, we’ve had to restructure the boxes on the gallery query page, placing the Artist and Location boxes to the left and bottom of the page. The scrolling will function better in this position. We’ve also lengthened the Location box so that it is easier to explore. **NOTE:** Remember that you can place your cursor in a scroll box and hit a key to move quickly down the list, such as a “u” to go to United States in the [Select by Image Location box](#). The number of images is now 38,000 and growing.

We are also in the process of alphabetizing the Artist names by last name so that they will be easier to search.

The [Usage Requirements](#) below each image and their [linked information](#) have also been updated regarding copyright use. The primary item to remember regarding copyrighted images is this: “*Any use of copyrighted images requires notification of the copyright holder, though they may be freely used for any non-commercial purpose.*”

3. VegSpec



One of the Related Tools accessible from the left navigation box on the PLANTS Home Page, [VegSpec](#) is going through a process of revisions to better serve its user community. Log on and see the updated interface.

This application is a product of collaboration between the Army, BLM, USGS, and NRCS and is used by re-vegetation and restoration specialists in these agencies to obtain draft lists of species and initial planting scenarios for re-vegetation efforts. For NRCS Field Offices, VegSpec is not to be used in place of the eFOTG recommendations.

4. New PLANTS Identification Data Sets On-Line For Grasses

Grass keys for the following states are now available: Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida. We expect to have the grasses of the U.S. completed by the end of the calendar year.

These polyclave computer keys can be used on the [Web or downloaded](#). If used on the Web, you can highlight a word, hit the “Lookup” button, and a window will come up with Google definitions and links for more information.

Keys for all U.S. monocots, gymnosperms, legumes, and the heath family (Ericaceae) are in the pipeline.

5. PLANTS Links Provide Additional Conservation Information

Many useful sites are cataloged on the [PLANTS Links](#) accessible on the Home Page at the bottom of the left navigation box. This area is slated to be modernized in the near future. A few of the topic areas with links include the following:

- Agriculture Related – Beneficial Insects
- Agriculture Related – Plant Materials – Drought Tolerant Plants
- Landscaping – Fire Resistant Landscaping
- Landscaping – Native Plant Xeriscaping
- Native Plants & Gardening – Ecological Restoration
- Native Plants & Gardening – Propagation
- Plant Groups A to W – Grasses
- Plant Groups A to W – Wetland Plants
- Threatened, Endangered, and Rare – U.S. Federal – USFWS – Threatened & Endangered Species System



A few new sites that might be of assistance to you include the following:

[Field Guide to Intermountain Sedges \(USFS RMRS\)](#)

[Florida Wetland Restoration Information Center](#)

[Grasses of Iowa](#)

[Legume \(Fabaceae\) Fruits and Seeds Identification Key \(USDA ARS\)](#)

[Prairie Restoration: A Digital Aid Featuring Seeds, Seedlings, and Fruits](#)

[Wetland Restoration Bibliography \(USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center\)](#)

6. Eastern Gamagrass Technical Note Released



The eastern gamagrass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*) tech note to which many of the Plant Materials staff contributed has finally made it through the directives gauntlet. We thank James Henson for his tireless effort stewarding it through the system. It is in the eDirectives system under the following title: [\(TN.190.B.74: Biology-74\) Eastern Gamagrass \(*Tripsacum dactyloides*\): A Plant For Forage, Conservation, and Bioenergy](#). This note is also available on the [NPDC Web site](#) under [Publications](#).

7. PLANTS Use Continues To Expand



During the month of May, [PLANTS](#) use for a single day topped 66,000 user sessions with a median time spent at the site of 7 minutes each.

The total number of user sessions during May topped 1.8 million making it the most heavily used USDA scientific database. This is about double the use of a year ago.

Your Feedback is Requested

Please send comments regarding PLANTS, NPDC NewsNote, or other plant-related issues to plants@plants.usda.gov. Archived versions of [NPDC NewsNote](#) are available on the NPDC Web site.

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