



NewsNote

A Periodic Note for State PLANTS Coordinators

1 August 2005

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1. PLANTS Images Featured on Two Notable Web sites

Images from the PLANTS Gallery are routinely downloaded for variety of publications and Web sites. However, the National Plant Data Center is especially pleased to see its images featured on two Web sites in particular, Wisdom of the Elders (WOE) and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) – World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

Wisdom of the Elders is an American Indian non-profit organization based in Portland, Oregon. They support a new Corporation of Public Broadcasting radio program and have a mission of cultural preservation, education, and race reconciliation. WOE has recorded and preserved oral history and cultural arts of over 150 exemplary indigenous elders, storytellers, artists, and song carriers since 1992. For more information, visit their Web site at www.wisdomoftheelders.org.

PLANTS images are also featured on the UNEP – World Conservation Monitoring Centre Web site. The NPDC set up an XML feed to this site so that the organization could query PLANTS by scientific name and display thumbnail images with direct links to PLANTS. To see an example of how the images are used, click [here](#).



Rosa rugosa

J.S. Peterson @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

2. Wetland Plant MARSH Keys Converted into SLIKS

At the request of Norman Melvin (NTSC-Central Wetland Team), we converted the old MARSH keys used for wetland plant identification over the past decade into SLIKS software. State PLANTS coordinators should have received these keys by e-mail on June 1, 2005 from Scott Peterson. SLIKS was developed by Stinger Guala, botanist at the NPDC, prior to joining the staff. If you have any questions or would like us to resend the keys, please contact Stinger at gerald.guala@la.usda.gov.

3. PLANTS Modernization Underway

The NPDC is currently modernizing PLANTS to meet the new USDA Web standard. This is part of a larger USDA initiative called Web site Development and Maintenance. We expect to release the new version with updated home page, Name Search results page, Classification Report, and Plant Profiles sometime later this year, with the rest to follow. A preview of the new Web site is at the right.



The new PLANTS look and feel.

4. Interactive I.D. Tool for Federal Noxious Weed Disseminules Released

The USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service – Center for Plant Health Science and Technology (CPHST) recently released an interactive CD of the Federal Noxious Weed Disseminules of the U.S. For more information, visit <http://www.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/FNW/> or contact Terrence Walters at terrence.w.walters@aphis.usda.gov.

5. Votes for Women. Plant Names for Women.

This August, the U.S. celebrates 75 years of votes for women. In honor of that, the following Web site highlights how women's names have long been inspiration for plant names, in this case cacti: <http://www.republika.pl/kwiki/wom.html>.



Your Feedback is Requested

Please send comments regarding PLANTS, NPDC NewsNote, or other plant-related issues to <rebecca.noricks@la.usda.gov>. Archived versions of NPDC NewNotes are available on the NPDC Web site at <http://npdc.usda.gov>, on the State Coordinators page.



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