

## Cooperative Releases

Aldous little bluestem	Konza aromatic sumac
Atkins prairie cordgrass	Lippert bur oak
Barton western wheatgrass	Midas false sunflower
Bend sand lovegrass	Nekan pitcher sage
Blackwell switchgrass	Osage Indiangrass
Cheyenne Indiangrass	Pete eastern gamagrass
Cimarron little bluestem	Pink Lady winterberry
El Reno sideoats grama	euonymous
Eureka thickspike gayfeather	Pronghorn prairie sandreed
Garden sand bluestem	Reno Illinois bundleflower
Kaneb purple prairie clover	Texoka buffalo grass
Kanlow switchgrass	Riley partridge pea
Kanoka roundhead lespedeza	Southwind common reed
Kaw big bluestem	Sunglow grayhead prairie coneflower

To obtain information on conservation uses for these varieties, contact your local NRCS office at the USDA Service Center. To obtain seed or plants, contact a commercial seed vendor or nursery in your area.

## The Key to Success is Cooperation

The success of the Plant Materials Program is achieved daily through cooperation at all levels. The following is a partial list of cooperators who have participated in plant materials projects in the past:

Kansas State University  
University of Kansas  
University of Nebraska  
Oklahoma State University  
Haskell Indian Nations University  
U.S. Department of Agriculture -  
Agricultural Research Service  
Forest Service  
U.S. Department of Interior -  
National Park Service  
Kansas Association of Conservation Districts  
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks  
Kansas Crop Improvement Association  
Kansas Forest Service

Visitors are always welcome at the Manhattan PMC. The staff is eager to share its enthusiasm for plants and conservation. Public awareness and support are important to the success of the program.

**Tours are available Monday through Friday  
7:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
3800 South 20th Street  
Manhattan, Kansas 66502-9535**

Please call before visiting the Center to ensure that someone will be available to show you around and answer any questions you may have.

Phone: 785-539-8761

Fax: 785-539-2034

Web site: <http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/kspmc/>

## Directions

**From Manhattan:** From Ft. Riley Blvd. or Tuttle Creek Blvd. (east side of Manhattan by Manhattan Town Center Mall) cross the Kansas River Bridge. Immediately after crossing the bridge, turn right on Riley Co. 901-McDowell Creek Road, travel 6.0 miles, turn right on Riley Co. 424. Follow Riley Co. 424, 3 miles north and 1 mile west to the PMC.

**From I-70:** Travelers on I-70 should exit 307-McDowell Creek Road Interchange. Eastbound travelers should turn left, westbound travelers should turn right on Riley Co. 901-McDowell Creek Road, travel 3.6 miles to west 40th Avenue, turn left and travel 3 miles north to PMC.

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# Manhattan Plant Materials Center

Helping People Help the Land

Manhattan, Kansas  
March 2008

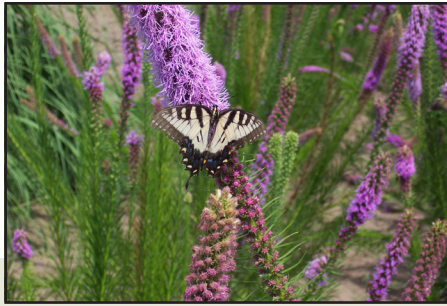
## The Manhattan Plant Materials Center (PMC)

is one of a national network of plant centers dedicated to providing vegetative solutions to conservation problems. The center is owned and operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

This PMC serves a diverse region of the heartland including Kansas, Nebraska, northern Oklahoma, and eastern Colorado. This area of the country was originally native grasslands. Annual amounts of precipitation in this region can vary greatly. Temperatures fluctuate widely and are often accompanied by high winds. Soil types also vary widely from the clays of northeastern Oklahoma to the coarse sandy soils found in the Nebraska Sandhills. The extremes of climate and soil offer a challenging and varied environment in which conservation plants must survive and flourish to be effective.

Today, this region's land use is largely devoted to agriculture.

The production of food and fiber is the leading industry in the heartland. Land users can enjoy many activities that involve the natural resources of the area; i.e., fishing, hunting, and viewing wildlife. When natural resources are used in a responsible manner, the risk of damage is reduced, and the resource will be conserved for future use and enjoyment. However, some activities can be detrimental to resources and can create erosion or other environmental disturbances.



When this occurs, plants can often be used to restore and protect the environment. **The Plant Materials Program's primary focus is to pursue elusive, hardy, desirable plants that have the ability to survive and prosper under adverse conditions.**

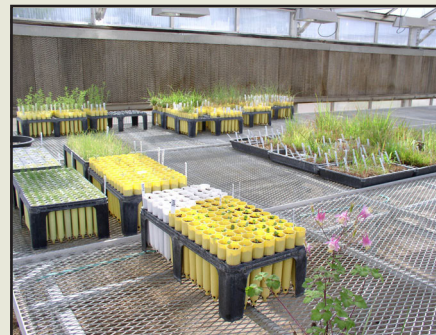
Released plant materials can be used to achieve the following:

- Conservation of highly erosive soils
- Range and pasture improvement
- Field and farmstead buffers
- Wildlife and wetland habitat improvement
- Water and air quality improvement
- Biodiversity improvement
- Invasive species reduction

## Program Objectives

The purpose of the Plant Materials Program is:

- to assemble, select, improve, test, and release plant varieties or germplasm for conservation uses,
- to promote the use of improved plant materials to meet the priorities and objectives of the NRCS conservation strategic plan,
- to develop management and cultural techniques necessary for the establishment and acceptance of promising plant materials, and
- to produce limited quantities of foundation quality seed or seedlings to stimulate commercial production.



## Program Products



The PMC and Plant Materials Specialist (PMS) cooperate with a variety of public and private conservation partners to select and produce improved plants for conservation. The program also develops state-of-the-art technology necessary for successful conservation plantings that reduce soil erosion and improve water and air quality. The reward for the producer is improved crop production, lower input costs, and positive environmental impact to natural resources.

The PMC and PMS also coordinate field activities that provide answers for USDA Service Center staffs on questions such as saline affected soils, techniques for reducing blow-outs, invasive species control, and other complex resource concerns. Questions posed by field offices are often insightful since their customers are the producers that face conservation challenges on a daily basis.

**The Plant Materials Program has made a significant contribution to the conservation of the natural resources of the United States.** The program has provided land-based solutions to erosion problems that have plagued this country since the invention of the moldboard plow. With a healthy dose of common sense and applied research, the Plant Materials Program staff has developed and distributed plants and technology that provides solutions to conservation problems.

