



# TECHNICAL NOTES PLANT MATERIALS # 30

## PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTING FIELD PLANTINGS

by  
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December, 1995

The Plant Materials Field Planting Program is changing to improve its utility to the Field Offices and streamline the process.

### DEFINITIONS:

**Field Plantings** have historically been used as the final evaluation of promising or unproven plant materials or technology to assess the conservation potential of these materials or technology under actual use conditions. Field Plantings are sometimes confused with Conservation Field Trials.

**Conservation Field Trials** are studies, which may or may not pertain to plant materials, to examine the applicability of a practice for solving a local soil and water resource problem. Conservation Field trials are a primary tool in the development and refinement of various practice technologies and the transfer of such technologies.

### BACKGROUND:

Field Plantings are a very powerful technique to elevate a Field Office's technical expertise in applying vegetative solutions to conservation problems. As stated above, Field Plantings can be used to evaluate new or unproven vegetative technologies as well as plants.

Field Offices and Conservation Districts will always be faced with new and unknown cultivars being purported as the solution to various conservation problems. Field Plantings are an ideal means of comparing unknown and new cultivars against commonly used cultivars on real-life, field-scale conservation problems. Some Field Offices have also used Field Plantings to evaluate the efficacy of untried technologies such as strip-planting several deep-rooted grasses to intercept leached nitrates, evaluation of weed barriers for the establishment of riparian shrubs, and evaluation of species mixes for erosion control in vineyards.

At present, the Plant Materials Specialist (PMS), Plant Materials Center staff, State Plant Materials Committee, and Ecological Sciences staff work together to identify Field Planting needs. Plant Materials Centers provide plants for evaluation and the Field Office plan, establish and evaluate the

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plantings. The PMS is then responsible for compiling and analyzing the data, and distributing technical information via Technical Notes, trip reports, etc.

The current Field Planting Program works but it can be streamlined and improved to serve Field Offices better.

### **PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTING A FIELD PLANTING PROGRAM:**

- A. Field Planting requests are directed to the Plant Materials Specialist. Field Offices and/or multi-county specialists will be largely responsible for generating requests for Field Plantings.
- B. PMS assigns leadership of the Field Planting request to a "technical lead". For example:

<u>Technical Area</u>	<u>Technical Lead</u>
Riparian Reveg.	Crowder
Agronomy	Stannard
Weed Suppression	Stannard
Range, Ecology	Lambert
West-side Veg. Issues	Lambert
Wetlands	Lambert

- C. The technical lead will work directly with the Field Office and multi-county specialist(s).
  - 1) The technical lead will conduct a literature search and network with persons with expertise in the area of interest:  
  
If adequate information is available - the technical lead will transfer this information to the field office and multi-county specialist(s), and a planting will not be established.  
  
If adequate information is not available - the technical lead will plan, establish, and evaluate the planting with the assistance of the field office. Data will be analyzed by the technical lead and information will be transferred to the field office(s) and multi-county specialist(s).
- D. PMS will compile results of all active Field Plantings and disseminate to the Field Offices on an annual basis.

