

Plant Materials Centers and Service Areas Within the Northern Plains Region



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PLANTS FOR CONSERVATION BUFFERS



Plant Materials Center
Meeker, Colorado

Conservation buffers are small areas or strips of land in permanent vegetation designed to complement other conservation practices that help:

- prevent soil erosion
- protect and enhance soil quality
- prevent air and water pollution
- improve wildlife habitat

Selecting the proper plant species is key to the overall effectiveness of installed buffers. Factors to consider when selecting appropriate plant species include:

- planting objectives
- site characteristics
- climate
- plant adaptability
- plant attributes that enhance buffer effectiveness

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Plant Materials Program has released many of the plant species used in various buffer practices.

The accompanying table provides a list of plants developed by the Program that may have application in buffer establishment.

The table is presented for general guidance. Check the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide for plant species adaptability and performance, establishment techniques and management for specific practices in your locale.

With proper planning, resource inventory, site preparation, plant species selection, seed quality, seeding techniques, and subsequent management, landowners can successfully establish an array of plant species to serve as effective conservation buffers.



For more information on the use of vegetation to address conservation needs, visit the NRCS Plant Materials Program website at: <http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>.

PLANT MATERIALS PROGRAM RELEASES SUITABLE FOR CONSERVATION BUFFERS

PLANT MATERIALS FOR CONSERVATION BUFFERS	CONTOUR BUFFER STRIPS	FIELD BORDERS	FILTER STRIPS	GRASSED WATERWAYS	HERBACEOUS WIND BARRIER	CROSS WIND TRAP STRIPS	SALT TOLERANT VEGETATION	RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFER	WINDBREAKS / SHELTERBELTS	STREAMBANK / SHALLOW PROTECTION	FOR WATER AREAS	FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT	WILDLIFE UPLAND MANAGEMENT	WASTE MANAGEMENT
GRASSES														
Slender Wheatgrass 'San Luis'	X	X	X		X	X	X					X	X	
Tufted Hairgrass 'Peru Creek'								X				X		
Western Wheatgrass 'Arriba'	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X	
Mountain Brome 'Garnet'	X	X	X		X	X		X				X	X	
Mountain Brome 'Bromar'	X	X	X		X	X		X				X	X	
Pubescent Wheatgrass 'Luna'	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X	
Basin Wildrye 'Magnar'	X	X	X		X	X	X					X	X	
Arizona Fescue 'Redondo'	X	X	X		X	X						X	X	
Mammoth Wildrye 'Volga'	X	X	X		X	X	X					X	X	
FORBS														
Louisiana Sage 'Summit'	X	X	X		X	X	X					X	X	
Utah Sweetvetch 'Timp'	X	X	X		X	X	X					X	X	
Rocky Mountain Penstemon 'Bandera'	X	X	X		X	X						X	X	
SHRUBS														
Fourwing Saltbrush 'Rincon'	X	X	X			X	X		X			X	X	
Mountain Big Sage 'Hobble Creek'	X	X	X			X			X			X	X	
Antelope Bitterbrush 'Maybell'	X	X	X			X			X			X	X	
Winterfat 'Hatch'	X	X	X		X	X	X					X		
Mountain Mahogany 'Montane'	X	X	X		X	X	X		X			X		