

Aberdeen Plant Materials Center

Tribal Conservation Technical Assistance



Website: <http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov>



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The use of plants can solve many environmental challenges. Plants hold soil in place, protect stream banks and shorelines, filter pollutants, and provide food and cover for livestock and wildlife. They heal the land after wildfire, mining, and floods. They beautify our surroundings.

Plants also provide food and shelter and have helped heal people for centuries.

The Aberdeen Plant Materials Center – Who We Are

The Natural Resources Conservation Service Plant Materials Program ensures we have the plants, techniques and knowledge to establish and maintain plants in our ecosystems. The Program develops and distributes leading-edge plant science technical information based on research conducted at the **Aberdeen Plant Materials Center** (PMC).

The Aberdeen Center is one of 27 plant materials centers nationwide. Established in 1939, the Center evaluates and selects plant materials and propagation techniques for plants used for resource conservation projects in the western United States.

How We Can Help You



Tribal members planting seeds

The **Aberdeen Plant Materials Center** can provide information, plants and plant technology to assist Tribal conservation projects. Whether it is restoring stream banks, controlling erosion on cropland or reintroducing culturally significant plants, the PMC may be able to provide seeds and plants.

The Aberdeen PMC works through the state's plant materials committee to provide plants to Tribal communities and individual cooperators for evaluation, demonstration and propagation activities.

For more information on the **Aberdeen PMC**, contact the Team Leader in Aberdeen at (208) 397-4133.

- To date, the Plant Materials Program nationwide has released over 600 conservation plants, many being grown commercially for conservation use.



Examples of Past Projects

Nez Perce Tribe

Provided planting recommendations for culturally significant plants on wetlands and riverbanks within the reservation.

Shoshone-Bannock Tribe

Provided technical assistance for:

Cleaning wetland plant seeds of culturally significant plants.

Determining bioengineering treatments to protect the old Fort Hall site on the Snake River.

Conducted training on harvesting and planting willows along the Snake River.

Assisted with the establishment of a native grass demonstration planting in 2002 and annual evaluations.

Assisted Sho-Ban High School with a camas field planting in 2006. Planted camas bulbs collected at Camas Prairie near Fairfield. Provided technical assistance in bulb collection, propagation and evaluations.



Examples of Plants Released by Aberdeen Plant Materials Center and their Cultural Uses



Northern Cold Desert winterfat Used to treat fevers, small pox, open sores and burns; also used as a hair wash



'Nezpar' Indian ricegrass
Seeds relieve stomach ailments; ground into flour and meal for cakes and flat bread



Maple Grove Lewis flax
Used to treat coughs and inflammation; fibers woven into baskets, mats, and nets



Camas, Hagerman, Ogden Bay, and Stillwater germplasm hardstem bulrush used for diet supplements; fibers used for mats and baskets



Snake River Plains fourwing saltbush
Roots used to treat stomach ailments and relieve skin rashes and toothaches; makes a yellow dye