



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

## helping people help the land

# Outreach at the PMC



*Kimberly Stevenot (right), with the California Indians Basketweaver's Association, explains cultural uses of native plants to participating students.*

On Tuesday November 21<sup>st</sup> the Lockeford Plant Materials Center (PMC) hosted an educational event. The purpose of the event was the installation of a hedgerow consisting of a variety of plants used traditionally by different California Native tribes for food, fiber, and medicine.



*Students at the Plant Material Center.*



*Richard Walsh, teacher from Golden Valley Community School*

The hedgerow was planted by students from Golden Valley Community School in Stockton California led by their teacher Richard Walsh. Walsh has a rich knowledge of native and non native plants and makes full use of any field day experience to pass on his knowledge. The event was coordinated by Susan Douglas, San Joaquin county FARMS program, and David Dyer, Manager/Agronomist at the PMC. NRCS Area 4 Tribal Liaison Pedro Torres, Chris Storm (a viticulturist working with Lodi-Woodbridge Winegrape Commission and mentor in the Students and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship) and Claire Evans, a student at SJ Delta College; were on hand to assist the students with the planting. Basic horticultural planting concepts such as appropriate plant depth, spacing, fertilizing, were demonstrated as well as how to properly install irrigation. Kimberly Stevenot, California Indians Basketweaver's Association, discussed the importance of these plants to the preservation and continuation of native cultural traditions.



*Dave Dyer demonstrates how to plant a hedgerow. Dyer will also use this opportunity to determine the cost of installing a native practice.*

The day began with participants introducing themselves and stating why they were there. While most of the students insisted that they were there because their teacher had brought them, trying to give an air of indifference or even disdain for the project; they all participated with full enthusiasm once their hands were in the dirt. It was obvious that they gained a lot from the experience, both the tactile experience of working with the soil and the cultural enrichment of learning about the plant's uses by native peoples.

NRCS has also learned from the experience. Dave Dyer is using the event to determine the cost of installing such a hedgerow. This information will be used to plan other such projects around the