

# Lockeford Plant Materials Center

## Quarterly Newsletter – June 2010

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### Pollinator Hedgerows

The pollinator hedgerows at the California Plant Materials Center (CAPMC) were designed by NRCS State Biologist, Tom Moore in collaboration with the Xerces Society. The hedgerows contain a mixture of shrubs and perennial and annual native grasses and wildflowers selected so that there will be flowers in bloom providing pollen and nectar to pollinators for most of the year. They were planted in January and November of 2009 to demonstrate the potential use of hedgerows for pollinator habitat in field rows and margins.

During the spring the hedgerows were a continually changing mosaic of colors as different flowers came into bloom, providing an oasis of color within the PMC. The hedgerows are continually humming with a variety of bees, including honey bees and various native bee species.



Jessa Guise from the Xerces Society stands in front of the hedgerow during the training



During May, hedgerows in flower with California poppy, phacelia and lupine

A Pollinator Hedgerow workshop was held on a cool and cloudy day at the CAPMC on May 25. It was organized by John Brodie, RCD and the Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Steering Committee, with Jessa Guise from the Xerces Society. The meeting included presentations on hedgerows and pollinators, demonstrations of planting equipment and discussion of soil preparation and hedgerow establishment. In all, 22 people attended the workshop, including representatives from NRCS Field Offices, UC Davis and farmers and growers.

## Harvesting of Foundation Seed

Historically, the major function of the Plant Materials Centers has been to develop plant materials for conservation practices. The CAPMC is still required to develop plant materials and produces seed of many of the releases developed by the Center over the years.



Agronomists Christina Smith and Anna Young-Matthews assess readiness of a California brome accession for harvest

Late spring was harvest time for several native grasses including three releases of purple needlegrass (*Nassella pulchra*), and our five most recent releases of California brome (*Bromus carinatus*).



Farm Superintendent Dennis Frommelt operates the combine as it harvests a planting of a California brome release

## New Manager for CAPMC

Margaret Smither-Kopperl was appointed as Manager and started work in April. Originally from England and with a family background in Horticulture, she has degrees in Botany and Applied Plant Sciences from the University of London and a PhD in Plant Pathology from Michigan State University. She worked at the University of Florida in Gainesville on biological control of weeds in the Plant Pathology Department and vegetable production in the Horticultural Sciences Department. Her most recent job was as Botanist, Identifier with USDA-APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) in Seattle, where she also worked as a part-time faculty member at Muckleshoot Tribal College, part of North West Indian College.



New Manager Margaret Smither-Kopperl

Her plans include developing the CAPMC so that more of the land area is providing useful information to our Field Offices: initially with demonstrations into cover crops and conservation cover. More hedgerows are being planned for compatibility with different cropping systems. She wants to expand collaborations with California tribes to research Indigenous Stewardship Methods.

Margaret welcomes comments and suggestions ([margaret.kopperl@ca.usda.gov](mailto:margaret.kopperl@ca.usda.gov)).