

Seed Production of Native Plants in the Intermountain West

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The USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center (PMC) in Aberdeen, Idaho has been testing, selecting and releasing plants to help solve natural resource issues since 1939. The PMC has developed a number of unique methods and tools to produce seed from native species. Weed barrier fabric is used to control weeds from select native forb and shrub seed production fields. A new harvesting machine developed by the PMC termed the “jet harvester”, quickly and easily removes ripe seed with reduced inert material and is non-destructive to the seed producing plant. The PMC has also developed a quick method to estimate seed quality during seed processing using a hot plate heated by propane.