

Great Basin Native Plant Selection and Increase Activities at the Aberdeen, Idaho Plant Materials Center

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The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Aberdeen, Idaho Plant Materials Center (PMC), in cooperation with the Great Basin Native Plant Selection and Increase Project, continues to produce early generation Certified seed of four plants native to the Intermountain West. These plants include Maple Grove Selected Class Germplasm Lewis flax (*Linum lewisii*), Anatone Selected Class Germplasm bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), Snake River Plains Selected Class Germplasm fourwing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*) and Northern Cold Desert Selected Class Germplasm winterfat (*Krascheninnikovia lanata*). Seed of these species produced by the PMC is provided to commercial seed growers for large scale commercial seed increase. In 2004 the PMC planted a demonstration planting at the Orchard site east of Boise, ID. The PMC continues to evaluate and maintain this display nursery. Seed increase plots of sulphurflower buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum*), giant biscuitroot (*Lomatium dissectum*), nineleaf biscuitroot (*L. triternatum*), Gray's biscuitroot (*L. grayi*), hotrock penstemon (*Penstemon deustus*), sharpleaf penstemon (*P. acuminatus*) and sagebrush penstemon (*P. speciosus*) have been planted at the PMC. These seed increase plots are allowing us to determine plant performance and required cultural practices for seed production for these species. Seed from these plots will be used for larger scale seed increase and advanced evaluations. In 2005 the PMC began a project in cooperation with Brigham Young University and the Agricultural Research Service in Burns, OR, for reestablishing native plant diversity in crested wheatgrass stands in the Great Basin. For this project, the PMC prepared seed and rice hull mixtures and drill planted test sites in Utah and Oregon with a Truax Roughrider range drill modified by PMC personnel. These seedings were repeated in the fall of 2006 on additional plots at the same locations.

Keywords: native plant testing, release and certified seed production of native plant species