

About the Program

The mission of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Plant Materials Program is to develop and transfer effective state-of-the-art Plant Sciences Technology to meet customer and resource needs. NRCS Plant Materials activities are consistent with the objectives of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and NRCS Strategic Plans, namely to provide timely and effective vegetative solutions for resource needs.

To accomplish this purpose, NRCS operates and maintains its Plant Materials Program with a network of 26 Plant Materials Centers (PMC) and 15 Plant Materials Specialists. Products from the program include plant releases, written plant science information, and oral presentations.

Conservation Plants Released by NRCS

There were 24 new plants selected and released to the public in fiscal year 2001 in support of conservation issues such as buffers, wetland creation and restoration, wildlife habitat, forage improvement, bioengineering, soil stabilization, windbreaks/shelterbelts, and roadside revegetation, urban conservation, and native plant landscaping.



Northern Iowa Germplasm thickspike gayfeather, a 2001 release by the Elsberry, MO PMC.

Commercial Production of NRCS Releases in 2001

A total of 534 plants have been released by the Plant Materials Program since 1937, over 400 of which are still being used in conservation practices. The following table summarizes the commercial production and value of 254 plant releases in 2001.

Type	Amount	Value
Foundation Seed	532,970 lbs.	\$460,690
Certified Seed	10,130,407 lbs.	\$51,508,231
Common Seed	8,675,177 lbs.	\$31,982,063
All Plants	22,661,804 ea.	\$9,938,446
Total Value		\$93,889,430



Tusas Germplasm bottlebrush squirreltail, a 2001 release by the Los Lunas, NM PMC.



Technology Transfer from the PM Program

In addition to Conservative Plant Releases, written and oral technology transfer form the core of products from the Program. Technology is distributed through different written formats, many of which are accessible through the Internet, and through presentations, training sessions, and tours.

Oral Products

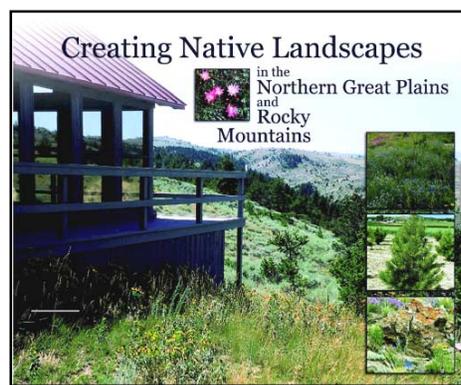
Type of Presentation	Number	# of People
Training Sessions	89	2,256
Tours	111	2,969
Local Presentations	264	22,301
Regional Presentations	77	8,033
National Presentations	20	6,380
International Presentations	14	1,990
Total Presentations	575	43,929



Brooksville, FL PMC staff teach students about conservation plant materials.

Written Products

Type of Publication	Number
Technical Notes	51
Stand-alone Publications	13
Popular Articles	139
Technical and Progress Reports	116
Plant Guides and Fact Sheets	66
Published Symposia, Posters, and Refereed Papers	39
Total Publications	424



Booklet for native landscaping principles and practices by the Montana Plant Materials staff.

Plantings to Support Technology and Plant Development

- There were 578 studies with 44,307 plots and 90,0311 plot evaluations in 2001.
- 702 Field Plantings were on farms and ranches.
- 206 Conservation Field Trials were in place to evaluate and demonstrate new technology.



Evaluation plots of coastal salt-tolerant plants for southern Texas shorelines, Kika de la Garza, TX PMC.

For more information on the Plant Materials Program, visit our web site at:

<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>

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