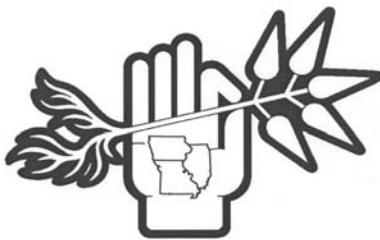


Elsberry PMC  
2803 N. Hwy 79  
Elsberry, MO 63343  
Phone: 573 898-2012  
FAX: 573 898-5019



# Plants for Conservation

Volume 5 No. 1 Elsberry Plant Materials Center for Programs in Missouri, Illinois, and Iowa

Spring 2003



## Elsberry PMC Plans Spring Training/Tour

Jimmy Henry, PMCM

The Elsberry Plant Materials Center (PMC) is planning to host the annual PMC spring training/tour which is intended to give NRCS, SWCD, MDC and DNR personnel who have never visited the Center, or not in recent years, an opportunity.

This training/tour is open to personnel in the three states being served by the PMC (IA, IL, and MO). The scheduled date is June 11, 2003, starting at 10:00 AM and ending around 3:00 PM. Staff will be available for those individuals wanting more in-depth discussions on selected topics.



## 2003 Featured Plant

### Rigid Goldenrod

*Oligoneuron rigidum* (L.)  
Jimmy Henry, PMCM

Rigid goldenrod is a coarse, erect perennial forb often occurring in clumps. The fibrous roots may penetrate the soil 5 feet, so it competes well with the dominant grass species. This plant may grow to a height of over 3 feet even 4 feet may be reached in the eastern portion of its range. The leaves and stems are usually hairy, giving the plant a distinctive pale green or grayish cast. Leaves are alternate, with the lower ones long-petioled and oval. The lower leaves form a large basal rosette early in the season or sometimes in the previous fall, so the plant is discernible throughout the growing season. The terminal inflorescence is bright yellow, more or less flat-topped to somewhat rounded, dense, and up to several inches across. Reproduction is by lateral shoots and by seed. Rigid goldenrod is found in upland prairies,

dry open woods, roadsides and disturbed areas from Minnesota to Texas and west to the Rocky Mountains.

Rigid goldenrod has approximately 735,000 seeds per pound. Seeding rates for seed production should be about 0.4 - 0.6 pound of pure live seed (PLS) per acre in 36-inch rows.

For prairie mixture, rigid goldenrod should be a small component of the mixture ranging from 0.2 - 2 PLS per square foot.

Central and Southern Iowa Germplasm Rigid Goldenrod were released in 2002.

Contact the PMC for additional information regarding this plant.



## Field Plantings and Evaluations Updated.

Jerry Kaiser  
Plant Materials Specialist

I would like to thank all the Field and Area Offices personnel who completed plant evaluations this past fall for the plant materials being tested in the field. This information is very important on the performance for the conservation use and the potential release of the plants.

For this year Field Plantings I have already sent seed to the field offices for the dormant plantings. In February I will be returning approved

requests (ECS-9 approved) for seed and woody plant materials that will be shipped in the spring of 2003. Thanks again for your requests and if you have questions or concerns, please call me at 573-898-2012 or e-mail [jerry.kaiser@mo.usda.gov](mailto:jerry.kaiser@mo.usda.gov).



The above picture is a Field Planting in Clark County Illinois testing this Flood Tolerant selection of a low growing switchgrass. This WRP site along the Wabash River was planted in June 2000 and flooded in 2001 and 2002 from late fall until June. The picture was taken in August 2002 showing the flood tolerant switchgrass being green and upright in a mix planting with Canada wildrye.

As a comparison "Blackwell" switchgrass was planted in the same field. The "Blackwell" switchgrass was lodging and turned brown with some disease problems.

A special thanks to WRP Biologist, Dave Hiatt, for conducting the planting and follow-up.



## PMC PLANT RELEASES IN 2002

Jimmy Henry, PMCM

The Plant Materials Center cooperatively released eight new Source Identified Germplasm releases

from Iowa and one Missouri in 2002. They are Central Iowa Germplasm New England Aster, Northern Iowa Germplasm New England Aster, Southern Iowa Germplasm New England Aster, Northern Iowa Germplasm Pale Purple Coneflower, Southern Iowa Germplasm Pale Purple Coneflower, Southern Iowa Germplasm Tall Dropseed, Southern Iowa Germplasm Rigid Goldenrod, Central Iowa Germplasm Rigid Goldenrod, and a selected class release of Cuivre River Germplasm Virginia Wildrye.

These plants can be used for roadside plantings, prairie establishment, wildlife plantings, prairie gardens and CRP.



### Elsberry PMC Begins To Sell Foundation Seed

Jimmy Henry, PMCM

The PMC has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Missouri Crop Improvement Association that will allow the PMC to sell foundation seed to seed growers. This MOU went into effect at the beginning of Fiscal Year 2003. As of January 2003 the PMC had several orders from seed growers with additional orders pending. The money generated from the sales of seed will be used for purchase of foundation tags, field inspections and seed tests. The following is a listing of seed that is available for sale to growers for establishing foundation fields for production.

‘Cave-In-Rock’ switchgrass, ‘Rumsey’ Indiangrass, ‘Rountree’ big bluestem, ‘OH – 370’ big bluestem, and ‘Bobwhite’ soybeans. In 2004 we anticipate the availability of ‘Cuivre River’ Virginia wildrye seed.

Growers should contact Plant Materials Specialist, Jerry Kaiser, for additional information at 573-898-2012.



### Collection of Native Cool-Season Grasses and Sedges for Filter Strips

Jimmy Henry, PMCM

There is little to no information regarding the use of native cool-season sedges and grasses being used in filter strip situations. In an attempt to respond to this lack of information, the PMC has been directed to initiate this study. A total of 22 collections of sedges and four collections of grasses were made from the PMC service area (Iowa, Illinois & Missouri): one sedge collection from Iowa, two from Illinois and 19 from Missouri. **MORE COLLECTIONS OF SEDGES AND GRASSES ARE NEEDED.**

The PMC wishes to thank everyone who thus far participated in these collections and encourages anyone to call the Center if questions arise concerning your collection.



### New Plant Materials on the Web

Jerry Kaiser

Plant Materials Specialist

You want to ID a plant or find a grower of a released plant. Make a few clicks on the following website to find your answer.

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

Click under Tools on Conservation Plant ID. “The Conservation Plants Pocket ID Guides” are available for herbaceous species and for trees and shrubs. Scroll down to “The List” and point your cursor on the species. If the photos do not pop-up, you can download the Guide to a .pdf file.

To find Seed and Woody Growers go to the same website listed above.

Click on *Plant Materials Centers*, click on *Elsberry* on the map. Under Special Interest, click on *Sources of MOPMC Conservation*.

*Plants.* A list of all growers and vendors of Elsberry releases with addresses and phone numbers is available.

Each year the states’ homepages (Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri) have new Plant Materials information.

For Iowa [www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov), click on *Technical Resource*, click on *Elsberry Plant Materials Center publications*.

For Illinois [www.il.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.il.nrcs.usda.gov), click on “*Information on*”, click on *Plant Materials*. Click on by year for the *Technical Report from Elsberry Plant Materials Center or IL PM Business Plan*.

For Missouri [www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov). Click on *Services*. Click on *Reports and Maps*. Several icons appear; either click on *National PM Program or Missouri Plant Materials Center or Annual Technical Report*.



### 2002 Weather Data

Jimmy Henry, PMCM

The PMC has been taking weather data since it opened in 1934 and is one of the oldest National Weather Service data collection sites in the United States. The following table shows extremes and how 2002 compared to the long-term average for precipitation.

Lowest temperature in 2002 was – 2°F on March 4. Highest temperature in 2002 was 99°F which occurred on July 9, and August 1 and 2.

2002 Weather Data Elsberry PMC  
Precipitation (Inches)

Month	2002	72 Yr Ave	Depart
January	2.53	1.87	+ .66
February	1.24	1.99	- .75
March	3.21	3.15	+ .05
April	4.46	3.70	+ .76
May	13.97	4.09	+9.87
June	3.15	3.78	- .63
July	0.79	3.41	-2.62
August	4.29	3.35	+ .94
September	1.29	3.30	-2.01
October	3.89	3.00	+ .88
November	.61	2.87	-2.25
December	1.83	2.46	- .63
TOTAL	41.26	37.04	+4.22

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact the USDA’s TARGET Center at 1-202-720-2600 (Voice and TDD). To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or call 1-800-245-6340 (voice) or 1-202-720-127 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity employer.