



2010 Progress Report of Activities Jamie L. Whitten Plant Materials Center

*Highlighting activities and products of the USDA-NRCS
Jamie L. Whitten Plant Materials Center during 2010.*

What we do

The Jamie L. Whitten Plant Materials Center (MSPMC), located in Coffeeville, Mississippi, is operated by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Our mission is to develop, test, and transfer effective state-of-the-art plant science technology to meet the resource needs of our customers. Our program has an excellent internal system for identifying current and future plant materials needs, coupled with a seamless system of product development and program delivery.

By working with a broad range of plant species, including grasses, forbs, trees, and shrubs, the MSPMC seeks to address priority needs of NRCS field offices and land managers in both the public and private sectors.

Conservation Objectives

The MSPMC works closely with NRCS field offices and land managers on a broad range of conservation concerns and issues. Pastureland improvement, cropland erosion control, critical area erosion control including urban conservation, wildlife habitat enhancement, and water quality improvement are the major conservation issues in our service area:

Mississippi (excluding the Gulf Coast), the delta regions of Arkansas, Louisiana, western Tennessee, southeastern Missouri, southwestern Kentucky, and the Blackland prairie of central Alabama.



To accomplish our mission objectives, we generate numerous products including plant releases, written plant science information, and public presentations.

2010 Highlights

The Annual Wildflower Tour

The Jamie L. Whitten Plant Materials Center and the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission hold an annual wildflower tour at the PMC every June. This event draws several hundred visitors, including wildflower enthusiasts, home gardeners, garden clubs, young people and landowners. The day's events include tours of the PMC facilities, presentations on landscaping with native grasses and wildflowers, a plant swap, and lots of food!



The Native Warm-Season Grass Forage Tour

Cattle producers and NRCS personnel from Mississippi and Tennessee attended the Native Warm-Season Grass Forage Tour at the Jamie L. Whitten Plant Materials Center on September 14th. Approximately 50 participants toured the PMC and observed native warm-season grass projects including silvopasture plots and haying/baling of nwsg's.



Rivercane Collected for Native American Tribe

2010 was second year that the MSPMC was able to provide rivercane to the Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Atmore, Alabama. This is an on-going project to assist the Poarch in their efforts to re-introduce native bamboo, or rivercane [*Arundinaria gigantea* (Walter) Muhl.], onto tribal lands.



Wildflower Planting at Choctaw Lake

MSPMC staff, Otis Pomerlee (top) and Jon Allison, recently completed a one-acre wildflower planting at Choctaw Lake Campground, located about 5 miles south of Ackerman, Mississippi in the Tombigbee National Forest. This planting will provide pollinator habitat, spring and summer color for visitors, and will reduce mowing maintenance at the facility.



Plant Materials in Production

- Lark Selection Partridge Pea
- 'Quail Haven' Reseeding Soybean
- 'Halifax' Maidencane
- 'Highlander' Eastern Gamagrass
- 'Chiwapa' Japanese Millet
- 'Meechee' Arrowleaf Clover
- Morton Germplasm Shrub Willow
- 9062821 Switchgrass
- 9002928 Beaked Panicum
- Pangburn Switchgrass
- Indian Bayou Source Powdery Thalia
- Leflore Source Creeping Burhead

Active Studies (Total: 17)

- Cropland (5)
- Pasture/Hayland (4)
- Critical Area/Buffers (4)
- Wildlife Habitat (4)

Written Technology Transfer (Total: 8)

- Annual Reports (2)
- Technical Papers (2)
- Newspaper Articles (2)
- Newsletters (2)

Oral Technology Transfer

- Training Presentations (4)
- PMC Tours (2)

Looking for Information on Vegetative Solutions to Conservation Problems?

[Visit the Plant Materials Program Website!](#)

- Plant Fact Sheets on conservation plants.
- Information on obtaining conservation plants.
- Publications and technology development from 27 PMCs across the country.
- New improved plants, uses and technology.
- Links to websites with additional or supporting information.

United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

[Jamie L. Whitten Plant Materials Center](#)

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