



*Highlighting activities and products of the USDA-NRCS
Jamie L. Whitten Plant Materials Center during 2011.*

What we do

The Jamie L. Whitten Plant Materials Center (MSPMC), located in Coffeerville, 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.

2011 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!



Photos Courtesy of Justin Fritscher, NRCS

Teachers' Workshop – June 9, 2011

On June 9, The MSPMC hosted a tour for local teachers working on continuing education credits. Attendees were given a walking tour of our pollinator garden and then we loaded up on the wagon for a tour of wildflower and native grass production fields.



MSPMC Plants Two Demos for CSP Water Quality Enhancement – June, 2011

The purpose of these two plantings of warm-season native grasses in Tallahatchie County was to demonstrate the CSP enhancement, ANM04, a water quality enhancement. The practice is used to extend existing filter strips for water quality protection and increase wildlife habitat.



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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 (3)
- Newsletters (3)

Oral Technology Transfer

- Training Presentations (3)
- PMC Tours (2)

United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service [Jamie L. Whitten Plant Materials Center](#)

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