

Jamie L. Whitten Plant Materials Center

2009 Progress Report of Activities



January 2010

This document highlights several activities and products of the USDA-NRCS Jamie L. Whitten Plant Materials Center during 2009.

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, which includes Mississippi, 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.

2009 Highlights - 2009 PMC 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!



2009 Highlights – Providing rivercane to the Poarch Band of Creek Indians of south Alabama



Rivercane has played an important role in the heritage of the Creek tribe of south Alabama. The Creeks found many uses for the plant including basketry, flutes, and dwelling construction. However, native stands of mature rivercane have declined in abundance. The MSPMC is partnering with the Alabama NRCS and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians to provide the tribe with rivercane that will be planted on tribal land to re-vegetate depleted stands of rivercane.

2009 Highlights

Technology from the Jamie L. Whitten PMC is an integral part of the NRCS strategic plan. The goals of providing a productive natural resource base and a high quality environment can not be realized without sound plant science technology.

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 Studies: 17)

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

Written Technology Transfer (Total Publications: 8)

- Annual Reports (2)
- Technical Papers (4)
- Newsletters/News Articles (2)

Oral Technology Transfer (Total Presentations: 6)

- 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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