



Plant Chat

A Quarterly Publication from the Bismarck Plant Materials Center
to the NRCS Field Offices in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota

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

Free Planning Tools

Are plants a part of your conservation planning? Are you familiar enough with the plant species in the Field Office Technical Guide to adequately sell and share the information with farmers and ranchers? Do you know the appearance, potential size, adaptability or seeds per pound for a specified species? Do you write plans incorporating the plants you know best, though there may be something better for a specific soil type or selected practice and use? What about plants you saw while out looking at range, cropland and wetlands. Are any of them a weed, invasive, noxious, culturally significant, or threatened and endangered?

Are you feeling a little uneasy about your plant knowledge right now? Need to find some answers? A few clicks of your fingers may be just the thing to allay your fears. A great source for conservation plant information can be found on the web at <http://plants.usda.gov>. This is a web site compiled and maintained by the National Plant Data Center. It has input from various scientists and researchers. Have you been to this site? If not, why? There is a wealth of information just waiting to be tapped. Following are a few, but not all of the topics you will find. I challenge you to look for yourself. It will be worth your while. Let me know via email at nancy.jensen@nd.usda.gov if you take me up on the challenge and what you think of the site. Make PLANTS a part of your conservation planning!

Nancy Jensen, Agronomist, Plant Materials Center

Topics on the PLANTS website		Line Drawings
Plant Guides	Conservation Plant Flexible Research	Plant Characteristics
Plant Fact Sheets	Ecological Site Information	Plant Distribution
Alternative Crops	VegSpec: Plant Selection Tool	Culturally Significant Plants
Weed Information	Restoration Information	Wetland Plants
Buffer Species	Plant Photo	Links to Additional Information
Plant Materials Information	Threatened and Endangered Plants	Advanced Search

Chief Knight Visits



NRCs Chief Bruce Knight visits with PMC staff on a recent trip to ND.

Packets for Demonstration

Small packets of grass seed are available from the Plant Materials Center to field offices, conservation districts, schools, and other agencies for demonstration and educational purposes only. If you have a need for packets, please specify the species, and the purpose when calling or sending the request. Requests can be made to the Plant Materials Center at 3308 University Drive, Bismarck, ND 58504, or the Plant Materials Specialist, Dwight Tober at USDA, NRCS, P.O. Box 1458, Bismarck, ND 58502. Due to the hustle and bustle of spring work here at the PMC, we are asking that requests be made this winter, before March 31, 2003, if possible.

Nancy Jensen, Agronomist, Plant Materials Center

Slough Sedge for Field Plantings

Rhizomes of slough sedge *Carex atherodes* (see photos), wrapped in rolls of water absorbent fabric, will be shipped for field plantings in the spring. They will need to be planted on a clean site close to the water line.

Michael Knudson, Forester, Plant Materials Center

