

NORTH DAKOTA

PLANT MATERIALS CENTER

USDA, NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

1998 WRCC-21 PROGRESS REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

This report will summarize and provide information regarding project activity at the USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Plant Materials Center located at Bismarck, North Dakota. Traditional study emphasis has focused on grass species for rangeland seeding, pasture and hayland planting, mineland reclamation, and other conservation uses. Work continues on woody species for windbreaks, wildlife, mineland reclamation as well as various other conservation uses. New emphasis is being directed toward wetland species and native forb and legume development.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

1. Release of 'Legacy' late lilac (*Syringa villosa* VAHL). 'Legacy' is a seed propagated cultivar, introduced into the United States in the 1880s. 'Legacy' is considered a late lilac as it blooms approximately two weeks later than the common lilac. It is suitable for planting in multi-row farmstead and field windbreaks, wildlife habitat, and plantings associated with recreational uses.

ONGOING PROJECTS

1. Evaluation of a wetland grass specie, slough sedge (*Carex atherodes*).
2. Seed collection, evaluation, and increase of approximately 12 native forbs and legumes. Evaluations will included propagation techniques, seeding rate, and seeding date studies.
3. Prairie Restoration Partnership. The second year of a five-year plan developed cooperatively with the North Dakota State Game and Fish Department to build a database from various research trials conducted in the field. Plans are to seed diverse mixtures of twenty or more different species including forbs and legumes with a no-till drill. Approximately 29 acres were seeded in 1998. The end product will result in standards and specifications for prairie restoration in the Northern Great Plains.

PLANNED PROJECTS

1. Seed collection of prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepsis*). Identify collection sites in 1999 and actual collection in 2000.

CURRENT PUBLICATIONS

1. Knudson, Michael J.; D. A. Tober, R. J. Haas, N. K. Jensen. 1998. Development of Northern Ecotypes of Four Native Warm Season Grasses for Conservation Use. National Poster, 1 page.
2. USDA, NRCS. 1998. Plant Materials Technolgy for North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota. Fact Sheet, 2 pages.
3. USDA, NRCS. 1998. Red River Germplasm prairie cordgrass. Release brochure, 2 pages.

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