

## WHAT'S NEW!

The Cape May PMC is preparing to release an Indian grass, big bluestem and little bluestem germplasm for use in the New England portion of the Northeast region.

In the fall of 2001, 2002 and 2003, PMC staff has collected these species from multiple sites throughout Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. Working closely with such groups as the New England Wildflower Society and Massachusetts Audubon, collections were split between Big Flats New York and Cape May New Jersey with the mountainous materials going to New York and coastal materials going to New Jersey.

Collections were started in the greenhouse and production fields were started vegetatively. October 2003 marks the first year's harvest and small scale availability of the new material.

### Suther prairie products go COMMERCIAL!

Several years ago, North Carolina NRCS resource staff was made aware of a unit of land that was deeded from the King of England to a family that still owns the property. The Suther and Fisher families have provided documentation that shows a small 5 acre part of their plantation was never altered by the American plow. The prairie's native warm season grass community represents a truly remnant eastern Americana prairie. Cape May PMC staff traveled for several years to collect big bluestem, little bluestem and Indian grass from the site and start seed increase nurseries.

Materials have now been released to several commercial growers. Andy Ernst stated at a tour of the Cape May PMC, that these products could be one of the hottest to hit the conservation streets in the East Region.