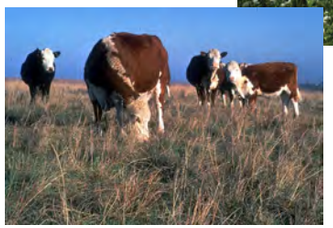
Plants offer a natural solution...

Healthy plant and animal communities provide economic and aesthetic benefits and are essential to people's quality of life.



The Plant Materials Program selects conservation plants and develops innovative planting technology to address today's natural resource challenges and maintaining healthy and productive farms and ranches.

USDA NRCS
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Plant Materials Program

Our Mission - Develop and deliver plant science technology to meet the nation's natural resources conservation needs.

For more program information and technical resources:
http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov

Helping People Help the Land

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Rev. October 2010

USDA NRCS
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Plant Materials Program

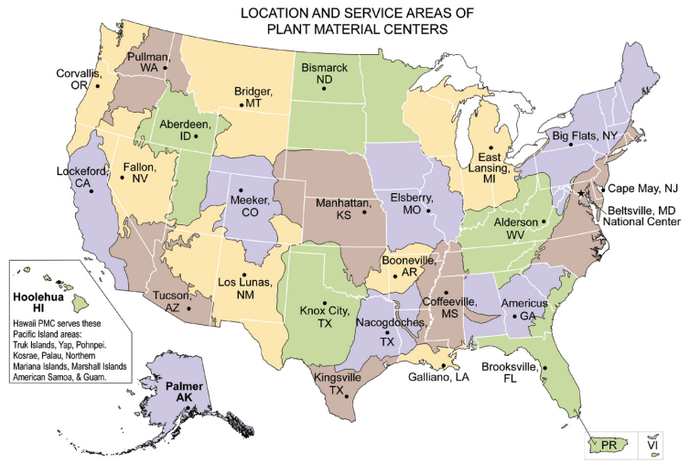
Plant Solutions for Conservation Needs

Plants make conservation happen...

Plants hold soil in place, protect stream banks and shores, filter pollutants, offer food for livestock and cover for wildlife. They heal the land after wildfire and mining, floods and drought. They beautify our surroundings.

The NRCS Plant Materials Program uses plants to solve the nation's most important resource concerns through a network of 27 Plant Materials Centers and associated Plant Materials Specialists serving all 50 states and territories. To date, the program has released over 600 conservation plants, most being grown by commercial growers for conservation use today. Successful plant releases include:

- 'Vaughn' sideoats grama
- 'Blackwell' switchgrass
- 'Sherman' big bluegrass
- 'Critana' thickspike wheatgrass
- 'Cape' American beachgrass
- 'Nezpar' Indian ricegrass
- 'Vermilion' smooth cordgrass
- 'Sabine' Illinois bundleflower
- 'Indigo' silky dogwood
- 'Ruby' redosier dogwood



"The Plant Materials Program and its cooperators have contributed the bulk of the material and technology now used in ecosystem restoration and are our foundation for meeting conservation challenges of the future."

— D.T. Booth and T.A. Jones, *Native Plants Journal*

Many of today's environmental challenges can be addressed through the use of plants.

The Plant Materials Program:

- **Focuses** on using plants as a natural way to solve conservation issues and re-establish ecosystem function.
- **Collects, selects and releases** grasses, legumes, wildflowers, trees and shrubs.
- **Cooperates** with public, private, commercial and tribal partners and land managers to apply new conservation methods using plants.
- **Provides** plant materials and new applied technologies for national initiatives, like the Farm Bill.
- **Offers** plant solutions to battle invasive species, heal lands damaged by natural disasters, reduce the effects of drought, promote air and water quality, and produce alternative energy.