

Marsh Notes

Finding Vegetative
Solutions for
Conservation
Problems



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center

Pelican Germplasm Black Mangrove Distribution

Pelican black mangrove (*Avicennia germinans* (L.) L.) is a subtropical shrub endemic to salt marshes near high tide elevations. This species serves as a sediment stabilizer, contributes leaf biomass to the marine food chain and detrital cycle, provides habitat and shelter for numerous biological organisms, and serves as an important vegetative



component for pelican nesting on Louisiana's barrier islands. Each fall, the Golden Meadow Plant Material's staff collects Pelican black mangrove seed from a designated area. Dependent upon availability of seed, in addition to the

number of commercial growers, the Center distributes bulk seed to eligible commercial growers. This year's seed production yielded relatively good, and currently the Center is in the process of distributing seed. The distributions will allow growers to commercially produce plants needed to protect coastal areas where black mangrove thrives naturally.



4th Annual Farmer and Rancher Banquet

This year's Farmer and Rancher Banquet was held in late summer of 2014. The banquet was a jointly-sponsored occasion with the St. Mary Parish Soil & Water Conservation District and St. Mary Parish USDA Service Center. It consisted of approximately 140 people present, including guest speakers and presentations regarding agricultural issues ongoing in the south central areas of the state of Louisiana. The banquet recognizes outstanding agricultural producers for their dedication to conserving and preserving natural resources in their agricultural operations. The Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center staff was present to address questions from agricultural producers and provide information on plant science technologies that the Center is currently working on.

The Mission of the NRCS Plant Materials Program:

We develop and transfer plant materials and plant technology for the conservation of natural resources. In working with a broad range of plant species, including grasses, forbs, trees, and shrubs, the program seeks to address priority needs of field offices and land managers in both public and private sectors. Emphasis is focused on using native plants as a sustainable way to solve conservation problems and protect ecosystems.

If you would like more information call us at (985) 475-5280 or visit our web site at <http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/lapmc>

Fall Issue 2014

Green Facts

The average person walks the equivalent of three times around the world in a lifetime.

<https://urbantimes.co/2014/05/40-interesting-science-facts-that-will-blow-your-socks-off/>

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PMC VEG QUIZ

Can you identify this native species?



Answer in next publication

Answer to Summer 2014 PMC Veg Quiz:
Avicennia germinans
Black Mangrove



LA-39 West Little Lake Vegetative Planting Project

Coastal Wetlands Planning and Protection Restoration Act (CWPPRA) contracts for vegetative plantings are increasing in coastal Louisiana. Plant Materials staff's involvement in these contracts sparks ways to innovatively approach vegetative planting techniques.



Rarely are two vegetative planting sites in coastal Louisiana ever exact, therefore the Center can experience the pros and cons encountered in the plantings and make recommendations for how plantings can become better perfected. This planting project consisted of restoring 'Vermilion' smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) and Bayou Lafourche Germplasm (*California bulrush*) to coastal areas in Southeast Louisiana. The two species are native to the area and are intended to protect both shoreline and fresh to intermediate marsh land effected by natural occurrences. Planted areas will be monitored for survivability and spread at later dates.



Fourchon Germplasm Bitter Panicum Foundation Planting

Cultural farming practices such as rotational vegetative plantings are one of many practices applied at the Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center. By relocating foundation plant species in the field, the Center can effectively control primary pests such as weeds, insects and diseases, at least to a certain extent and retain the

genetic integrity of its vegetative products. Fourchon Germplasm bitter panicum (*Panicum amarum* Ell.



var. *amarum*) is recommended for beach dune enhancement and stabilization on coastal beaches and barrier islands of the north central Gulf of Mexico basin. Foundation plots are constructed in fashions conducive to the use of mechanical maintenance available at the Center.

11th Annual Voice of the Wetlands Festival

Garret Thomassie and Alexis Luke served as representatives for NRCS's Plant Materials Center to answer questions and distribute information to the public regarding a variety of effective materials and methods the Center uses to protect and restore the coast of Louisiana. An exhibit was set up showcasing the numerous coastal



plant species used to protect Louisiana's marshes and shorelines. This is an annual festival held in Houma, Louisiana and consists of multiple exhibitors present to share knowledge of all aspects related to coastal issues and land loss. The exhibitors also share plans, opinions and strategies for sustaining Louisiana's coast. The festival is a balance between cultural celebration and real-world environmental awareness for coastal Louisiana's disappearing ecosystem.