

# Marsh Notes

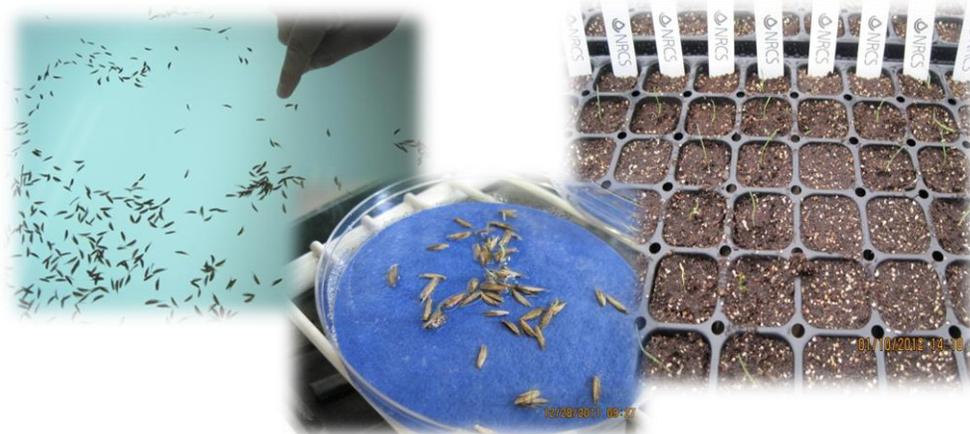
Finding Vegetative  
Solutions for  
Conservation  
Problems



USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service - Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center

## GULF CORDGRASS GERMINATION STUDY

Gulf cordgrass (*Spartina spartinae*) is being evaluated for the potential release of a named cultivar. Seeds harvested from thirty accessions will be germinated and tested for plant performance relative to its range of adaptation, soils and other environmental factors. Germination counts will be made every 7, 14, 21 and 28 days in a germinator set at 27°C. After 28 days, seed will be removed from germinator, moistened and placed in a refrigerator set at 3-5°C for 2 week stratification and then removed and placed back in germinator for 14 days. This germination test will be done again at 3, 6, 9 and 12 months. A more detailed report on this study can be found in the Golden Meadow Plant Material Center's (PMC) Annual Technical Report which will be made available in the spring of 2012.



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## ELMER'S ISLAND BEACH PLANTING

On November 15, 2011 the Golden Meadow PMC provided 500 gulf bluestem plants for conservation purposes on the southern beaches of Louisiana. Additionally, Nicholls State University provided 1200 bitter panicum stems. The Golden Meadow PMC and Bayou Land RC & D planted an area of nearly 1 acre near the newly constructed sand fences with the help of volunteers from Common Ground Relief and Nicholls State University.



## PMC VEG QUIZ

Can you identify this native species?



Answer in next publication

Answer to Fall 2011 PMC Veg Quiz:  
Illinois bundleflower (*Desmanthus illinoensis*)

## 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>

## EXCELLENT YEAR FOR PELICAN BLACK MANGROVE SEED PRODUCTION

2011 was a bumper crop for the harvest of Pelican black mangrove. An early, milder spring was conducive to the early production and blooming for black mangrove in



South Louisiana. The PMC was able to collect more than double the amount of black mangrove seed from prior years, therefore resulting in generous distributing to its increasing growers.

## 2011 VOICE OF WETLANDS FESTIVAL

The annual Voice of Wetlands Festival held in Houma, LA celebrated and promoted the culture, music and people of Southern Louisiana. The festival serves as an educational forum about the resource concerns and values of Louisiana's wetlands. Garret Thomassie and Curt Riche' 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 vegetatively. A booth consisting of the PMC's vegetative releases and publications were on display. The NRCS booth received approximately 1200 visitors over the entire weekend.



## PLANT COLLECTIONS ON WHISKEY AND RACCOON ISLANDS

Multiple collections of smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) and seashore dropseed (*Sporobolus virginicus* (L.) Kunth) were collected on the islands of Whiskey and Raccoon Islands located approximately 10 miles off the coast of south east Louisiana. The collection team consisted of Gary Fine (Bayou Land RC&D Native Plants Manager), Jennifer Roberts (Bayou Land RC&D Program Director), John Boatman (NRCS District Conservationist), Scott Edwards (NRCS State Resource Conservationist), Curt Riche' (NRCS Plant Material Center) and Ben Hebert (NRCS Civil Engineering Technician). These collections will serve as additional vegetative species to be incorporated into future PMC release studies.



### Plant Materials Specialist Corner

## SPRING PLANTING JITTERS

When late winter is upon us and spring is just around the corner many of us want to get out and plant something. As a gardener you can start seedlings in the warm confines of your house or cold frame. If you are wanting to plant native grasses, forbs and legumes then you might be a little behind the curve if your just getting starting and wanting to plant this spring. For native plants to properly germinate and grow, they need as little competition from weeds and other competing plants as possible. Planning ahead and doing proper seedbed preparation is critical to guarantee successful establishment of native plantings. Don't expect your natives to germinate and survive if they have to compete against things like bermudagrass, bahiagrass, or noxious weeds. Like planting bulbs in the fall for a spring bloom, plan your seedbed preparation for planting natives the season before your planned spring planting.

For additional guidance [Plant Materials Technical Note 13](#) is available to assist you on seedbed preparation.

We're on the Web!

[www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov)



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