

Plant Materials Program



Shoreline erosion before (above) and six months after (right) bioengineering installation. Similar treatment is planned for select reaches of shoreline at Lake Carl Blackwell, near Stillwater, Oklahoma.



The Manhattan Plant Materials Center (PMC) serves a diverse region of the heartland including Kansas, Nebraska, northern Oklahoma, and eastern Colorado.

Plant Materials Program



Responsibility for plant science activities of the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a primary function of the Plant Materials Program. The Manhattan Plant Materials Center (PMC) is one of a national network of

plant centers dedicated to providing vegetative solutions to conservation problems. The center serves a diverse region of the heartland including Kansas, Nebraska, northern Oklahoma, and eastern Colorado.

Program Products

The mission of the Plant Materials Program is to develop and transfer effective state-of-the-art plant science technology to meet customer and resource needs. The primary products produced by the program include the production of improved varieties of plants for commercial use, and the development of plant science technology for incorporation into the Field Office Technical Guide.

Program Highlights for 2002

Critical Area Treatment

- ☒ Evaluations of different plant species are being carried out to determine revegetation potential for salinity areas, critically eroding mine spoil-like areas, and dune stabilization.

Streambank and Shoreline Stabilization

- ☒ Bioengineering techniques incorporating structural components in association with plant materials have been installed and evaluated for effectiveness in stabilizing eroding shorelines.
- ☒ Various tree and shrub species have been established and evaluated for use in windbreak plantings, wildlife habitat improvement, and riparian forest buffers.

Range and Pasture Improvement

- ☒ Forage quantity and quality evaluations of perennial grass species are being conducted to determine overall performance for use in grazing and haying operations.

Outreach

- ☒ Muscogee (Creek) Nation was provided with culturally significant plants for nursery establishment on Tribal lands.

For More Information

For a listing of other activities currently underway at the Manhattan Plant Materials Center, log on to the Plant Materials web site at: <http://Plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov>.



photo: NRCS - PMC

'Mankota' Russian wildrye is one of eleven different species / varieties being evaluated for adaptation and production performance for use in the panhandle of Oklahoma and western Kansas.



photo: NRCS - PMC

Range Conservationist Wade Anderson, Cheyenne field office, applies mulch on a plant evaluation trial for dune stabilization.



photo: NRCS - PMC

District Conservationist Rusty Peterson, Perry field office, establishes a plant evaluation trial for salinity revegetation.

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