

Operations and Administration of the Plant Materials Center

Plant Material Center Planning

The State Plant Materials Committee met on December 18, 2012 and developed the Minnesota State Annual Business Plan for 2013.

Minnesota's Plant Material Specialist is Wayne Markegard. He can be reached at:

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The following are action items for the 2013 Plant Materials Plan:

ACTION ITEM	WHO	START	END
1. Maintain partnerships and provide plant materials and assistance as requested on various projects. Highlight success stories.	Markegard Kopp MacSwain	Ongoing	Ongoing
2. Keep field personnel informed on current developments in the plant materials program. Encourage area plant materials committees to maintain a high level of visibility and activity through regular meetings and activities sponsored by area committees. Promote inter-area training and technology transfer.	PMC Staff Area Committees Markegard	Ongoing	
3. Provide technical training for plant materials.	Oja Markegard PMS Staff ARCS	Ongoing	
4. Establish a working group to develop and implement a plan for preservation of "native birch" and other species on Tribal lands.	Markegard Tribal liaisons ARC	Ongoing	
5. Provide technical assistance to growers and nurseries.	Markegard	Ongoing	
6. Conduct annual winter planning meeting of the State Plant Materials Committee.	Oja Markgard	12/13	12/13
7. Provide technical support and plant materials to Becker Off Center Evaluation planting.	Markegard Bronder Kopp	Ongoing	
8. Provide Plant Materials information and technology training and support for demonstration and educational plantings on Tribal community lands. ID locally grown native plants.	Wise Markegard Walchuk	Ongoing	

9. Support the National Ash Seed Collection Initiative.	State Committee	Ongoing	
10. Disseminate updated information to field offices on biomass and cellulosic energy.	State Committee	Ongoing	
11. Promote the use of the cover crop practice by providing information through fact sheets, promoting attendance at field days and educational workshops.	Crellin State Committee Agronomist	Ongoing	
12. Continue to encourage the use of diverse species in conservation tree planting practices.	Kopp	Ongoing	
13. Provide plant materials and technical support for biofuels project at Central Lakes Agriculture Center (Staples).	Markegard	Ongoing	
14. Partner with the West Central Experiment Station in Morris on the pollinator demonstration site. Scheduled for planting in 2014.	Markegard Oja Kopp Poppe DC, Morris FO	9/30/13	
15. Promote low water use and energy efficient landscaping.	State Committee	Ongoing	
16. Develop vegetative standards for filter strips on saturated buffers.	Markegard Oja	9/30/13	
17. Wetland Mitigation Banking evaluation of sites. Evaluate the possibility of PMC seed to improve existing sites.	Markegard Oja	Ongoing	
18. Develop a handout publication comparing varietal differences and areas of adaptation for big bluestem varieties available in this area.	Markegard Oja	9/30/13	
19. Consider utilizing Demonstration Farms as a site for plant materials demonstration plantings.	Markegard Oja	6/1/13	

OFF CENTER EVALUATION PLANTINGS

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has entered into cooperative agreements with Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other state and federal agencies for evaluation of plant materials for conservation use at these locations:

Study 38A347K, Field Evaluation of Woody Plant Materials, University of Minnesota, Becker Research Farm, Becker, Minnesota. In cooperation with the University of Minnesota, the Plant Material Learning Center, Excel Energy (landowner), and Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District.

Proposed 5 year agreement with West Central Extension and Outreach Center for pollinator demonstration site.

FIELD, SEED INCREASE, AND SPECIAL PLANTINGS

All requests for plant materials were reviewed in relation to the needs and priorities indicated in the Minnesota Long-Range Program. (The approved plantings are included in the attachment to this annual plan).

All active field plantings will be evaluated in 2013 (see attached list of active plantings). In addition, high priority will be given to evaluate active plantings of species that have been scheduled to be released in the near future.

The District Conservationist is responsible for recording the information requested and scheduling evaluations needed to secure data in a timely manner.

VARIETY RELEASE

There is no new plant releases scheduled for 2013.

PLANT SEED COLLECTION

Collect native birch and other species to be determined by Tribal Liaisons and the plant materials specialist.

SCHEDULE OF PLANT MATERIALS ACTIVITIES - 2013

When	Who	Where	What
4/7/13	Wise	Green Bay, WI	MNTAC & WITAC Joint Training
5/14/13	FO Staff, Markegard, Kopp, Stange	Becker Cloquet Upper Sioux	Spring planting and evaluation of woody at OCEPS and Tribal sites.
6/19-26/13	State and Area Committees	State	Promote various activities for Pollinator Week
8/20/13	Stange, Markegard Kopp	Becker	OCEP evaluations, measure trees
8/22/13	Markegard, A2, PMC, Poppe	Morris	Evaluate site for 2014 pollinator seeding.
9/18/13	Baloun, Spencer	South Dakota	Tri-state Advisory Committee Meeting.
12/12/13	Markegard, ECS, State Plant Materials Committee	VTC	State Plant Materials Committee Meeting.

NRCS Minnesota 2013 Area Plant Materials Committee Chair Members are:

- Dustin Jasken, DC, NRCS, Mahanomen, **Chair**
- Jeff Hellerman, DC, NRCS, Morris, **Chair**
- Will Bomier, ARC, NRCS, Duluth, **Chair**
- Cindy Hoffman, SCT, NRCS, Waconia, **Chair**
- Lance Smith, Grazing Specialist, NRCS, Marshall, **Chair**
- Tom Coffman, DC, NRCS, Faribault (**Area Rep**)
- Mark Oja, Biologist, NRCS, St. Paul