

Year 2012



Progress Report of Activities

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Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center

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A brief summary of year 2012 accomplishments follows. For a complete account of all activities request the 2012 Technical Report of Activities at the above address.

WETLAND TRAINING PROVIDED TO NRCS IN GEORGIA

In July of 2010, NRCS released Circular No. 6, Part 527, Appendix to the National Food Security Act Manual (NFSAM). This appendix provided guidance to states that NRCS would utilize Part IV-Methods of the 1987 Manual and approved Regional Supplements-but only after considerations of specific "FSA Variances" included in the FSA Procedures. The "FSA variances" were included to assure that all NRCS wetland identification decisions meet unique definitions provided by the law and by USDA regulation. As part of the requirements to retain state Job Approval Authority for wetland determinations, NRCS employees must receive wetland determination update training for these methods and variances. This update training was provided to NRCS employees in Area 3 and Area 4. The training was held in Dawson and Statesboro Georgia in April and May 2012. Training was led by Jim Lathem (Resource Soil Scientist, Athens). He was assisted by Area 3 and Area 4 Resource Soil Scientists, local NRCS offices and the Jimmy Carter PMC. Instruction was provided in the classroom and at several wetland delineation field sites. Topics included methods to determine a wetland delineation. This included utilizing wetland hydrology, wetland plant identification and hydric soil determinations.



Students in Classroom



Field Site Determinations

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Many documents were distributed to the class including websites and a CD that explained wetland determination. Emphasis at the field sites was placed on hydrology, hydric soils and wetland plant identification.



Blackgum (*Nyssa biflora*)

Vines, shrubs, trees and herbaceous wetland plants were identified. Plant characteristics helpful in field identification were discussed. Uses of common and scientific names were part of the discussion. The courses also covered NRCS wetland responsibilities, wetland compliance policy and procedures, wetland labels and interagency cooperation. Many specific examples of wetland determinations in several counties were discussed and reviewed.

GEORGIA WETLAND PLANTS-GUIDE FOR FIELD IDENTIFICATION

The Jimmy Carter PMC has assisted in the production of an electric reference pictorial for identification of wetland plants. The publication is called Georgia Wetland Plants-Version 4.0. It contains nearly 300 photographs (including inserts) of commonly occurring wetland plants classified as

facultative or wetter according to the “1988 National List of Plant Species That Occur in Wetlands: Southeast” (Region 2). Photographs in the publication were taken by Georgia NRCS resource soil scientists and PMC personnel. Version 4.0 updates version 3.0 by adding 50 new plant photo files and replacing several others with higher quality images. This electronic pictorial should serve as an excellent reference source in wetland plant identification for wetland delineations in Georgia and surrounding states.



Savannah Meadow Beauty (*Rhexia alifanus*)



Savannah Primrose-Willow (*Ludwigia virgata*)

NEW PUBLICATIONS FOR PMC IN 2012

The Jimmy Carter PMC produced several new plant release brochures of former releases in 2012. 'AU Sunup' Crimson Clover is a cultivar released in 2009 in cooperation with Auburn University and the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Stations. It is a naturalized cool season annual legume. Vegetation averages up to 20 inches tall at flowering time. This cultivar is an early blooming variety of crimson clover. It can flower 5 to 21 days earlier than 'AU Robin' and 7 to 30 days earlier than 'Tibee' crimson clover. It was tested and is highly adapted to upland well drained soils from north Alabama to south Alabama and south Georgia. AU Sunup can be used as a green manure crop, cover crop for conservation tillage, habitat improver for pollinators, organic farming crop and grazing forage.



AU Sunup Crimson Clover

In 1994 a cultivar called 'AU Early Cover 'Hairy Vetch' was released in cooperation with Auburn University and the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Stations. It is a naturalized cool season annual legume with stems up to 5 feet long. It produces purple blooms in spring. It blooms 30 to 37 days earlier than other commercial hairy vetches. Primary uses include green manure crop, organic farming crop, pollinator habitat improvement, and a cover crop for conservation tillage.



AU Early Cover Hairy Vetch

'Flageo' Marshhay Cordgrass was a 1990 vegetative release with Brooksville Florida PMC and Fort Valley State University. It is a native perennial warm season coastal grass. It produces erect stems usually less than 40 inches tall. Flageo was selected from a large collection of marshhay cordgrass assembled from the southern Atlantic and Gulf Coast regions. It is salt tolerant and grows well on low sand dunes, interdunal swales and high salt marshes. It is a conservation plant primarily adapted to the Gulf and Atlantic coast and some inland areas in the Southeastern U.S.



Flageo Production Field

'Dove' Proso Millet is a cultivar released in 1972 by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) later known as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). It is an introduced grass from India. Dove Proso Millet was selected from 36 tested accessions in Americus, Georgia, Brooksville, Florida, and Coffeeville, Mississippi. It was superior in growth and seed production during three years of evaluation. The primary use for Dove Proso is feed for mourning doves. It produces mature seed within 65 to 75 days after planting and provides the wildlife manager the flexibility to maximize hunting opportunities.



Dove Proso Millet Seed

WHO WE ARE

The Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center (PMC) is a branch of the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. It is one of 27 plant materials centers located throughout the United States. The Center is located on the Northwest corner of Americus in Southwestern Georgia and is approximately 40 miles North of Albany. Areas served include Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina and parts of Tennessee and Florida.

WHAT WE DO

It is our mission to use plant materials and state-of-the-art plant science technology to solve natural resource problems and meet the objectives of environmental programs. Our program emphasizes using native plants. We develop, test and release superior adapted plants to commercial growers along with production and management technology. Our mission addresses three major objectives:

1. Native Grasses for grazing lands that support sustainable agriculture and wildlife habitat.
2. Native plants for restoration, pollinator enhancement, erosion control, wildlife habitat, conservation buffers, filter strips, and constructed wetlands.
3. Plants for conservation (green manure, organic gardening, carbon sequestration, and winter cover)