

Marsh Notes

Finding Vegetative
Solutions for
Conservation
Problems



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

From The Land Down Under

The Rotary International District 6200 participated in a Global Grant which funds Vocational Training Teams (VTT) exchanged between two international districts. VTT is a group of professionals sponsored by Rotary International who travel to another country either to learn more about their profession or to teach local professionals about a particular field. This year, District 6200 welcomed a VTT group from Australia which composed of one Rotarian and four professionals, all in agricultural fields. As they visit Rotary Clubs across the district, they visit a variety of businesses and sites that relate to their professions. As a one-day hosts for the VTT, the Rotary Club of Golden Meadow brought the team to the Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center located in Galliano. Here the team was given a tour of the facility and shown several types of plants that are used to restore Louisiana's marshes and levees. The group discussed issues dealing with severe drought, cattlemen and sheep herdsman are having difficulties with the drought and grasslands for grazing. The group feels that some of the types of grasses growing here in Louisiana may offer a more drought resistant grass for their cattle and sheep. Hopefully this exchange of information will help the Australians with some of their grazing problems.



University of Louisville

Each spring the Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center is fortunate to receive volunteers eager to put forth their efforts in saving Louisiana's diminishing coast. 18 students from the University of Louisville, Kentucky visited the Center and helped construct planter boxes for future plant increase. The students were amazed about what you need to know to keep a "GREEN THUMB." They learned that every coastal plant release from the Center has its distinct growing pattern and how each has unique needs to obtain optimal growth. This group in particular focused on the propagation of Timbalier Germplasm gulf bluestem. This is one of the Center's plant releases for beach restoration.



Green Facts

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In fact, when some plants are being eaten by caterpillars, they send chemical signals to parasitic wasps who swarm and attack the caterpillars.

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/awesomer/facts-about-the-plant-kingdom>

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PMC VEG QUIZ

Can you identify this native species?



Answer in next publication

Answer to Winter 2014 PMC Veg

Quiz:
Compassplant
Silphium laciniatum L.



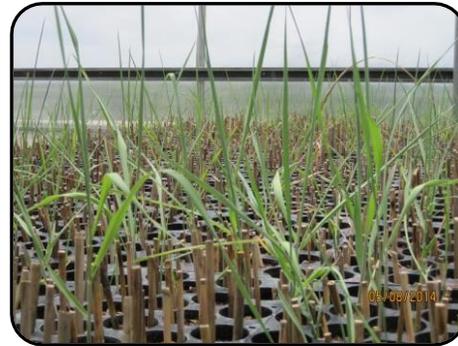
The Mission of the NRCS Plant Materials Program:

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>

State of the Coast 2014

This spring, the Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center participated in the State of the Coast Conference in New Orleans, LA. This Conference strives to provide an interdisciplinary forum to exchange relevant and timely information on the dynamic conditions of coastal communities, environment and economy in Louisiana. The information then is applied to existing and future coastal restoration and protection policies, efforts and decision-making. USDA-NRCS was one of many exhibitors at the Conference. Garret Thomassie and Curt J. Riche' represented the Plant Materials Center by displaying coastal plant releases and informational brochures. The Conference consisted of a poster session and the Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center authored and presented two [scientific posters](#) pertaining to studies using plants for coastal restoration.



able to successfully propagate 2500 stems that will be tended to in the greenhouse at the Center. Once mature, the plants will then be

established in a new foundation field at the Center. Rotating fields every several years is a conventional farming practice conducted at the PMC. Check out this link to see these volunteers making a difference to save the Louisiana coast brought to you by [This Week In Louisiana Agriculture \(TWILA\)](#).



New Home for Bitter Panicum

Thanks to Erin Hayden, Louisiana's Earth Team Volunteer Coordinator, the PMC received a burst of energy for 2 days of volunteer work. A group of Earth Team volunteers consisting of parents, teachers and FFA students from Sumner High School, Kentwood, LA performed hands on propagation of Fourchon Germplasm bitter panicum. Bitter panicum was released for its effectiveness to stabilize sand dunes along the coasts' of Louisiana and Mississippi. Volunteers were



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