Developing Plant Technology

- Assemble plants and supplies
- Evaluate techniques in initial trials
- Compare techniques with standards in advanced trials
- Select most desirable techniques
- Develop and distribute technology transfer products

Developing Plant Materials Releases

When conservation problems are identified, the PMC searches for the best plants or plant technologies to solve the problem. The process of selecting plant materials involves the following consecutive stages:

- Assemble plant materials
- Initial evaluation of plant materials at PMC
- Initial seed and plant increase
- Advanced evaluation in comparison with standards at PMC or off-center
- Field scale seed and plant increase
- Final testing in field plantings, in comparison with standards in conservation districts
- Name and release of new plant materials with partners
- Production of foundation seed
- Public commercial production of release materials by individual growers
- New plant release available for use
- Market new plant release

Plant Material Available for Commercial Production:

- ‘Affinity’ Northern White Cedar
- Alcona Germplasm Dillenius’ Tick-Trefoil
- Grant Germplasm Panicleleaf Tick-Trefoil
- Icy Blue Germplasm Canada Wildrye
- ‘Imperial’ Northern White Cedar
- ‘Indigo’ Silky Dogwood
- Koch Germplasm Prairie Sandreed
- ‘Lancer’ Perennial Pea
- Leelanau Germplasm Highbush Cranberry
- ‘Magenta’ Hybrid Crabapple
- Marion Germplasm Dillenius’ Tick-Trefoil
- Riverbend Germplasm Silky Willow
- ‘Roselow’ Sargent’s Crabapple
- Southlow Michigan Germplasm Big Blue stem
- Southlow Michigan Germplasm Indiangrass
- Southlow Michigan Germplasm Little Blue stem
- Southlow Michigan Germplasm Switchgrass
- Vintage Germplasm Common Elderberry

Types of Plantings

Field Plantings:
This final stage of technology development or plant selection is used to develop new methods of technology and evaluate the adaptability of new releases. A statistical analysis is completed on collected data.

Demonstration Plantings:
These plantings are used primarily to promote the use and acceptance of new technology or releases.

Off-Center Evaluations:
These plants are used by the PMC to evaluate plant releases or technology of the center. A statistical analysis is completed on collected data.

Conservation Field Trials:
These plantings are for evaluating new technology, species or plant releases that address local natural resource problems. This helps to develop new technology, evaluate releases, and promote plant materials products. A statistical analysis is completed on collected data.
For More Information
Visit the NRCS Plant Materials program website to learn more about using plants to address conservation problems at:


Rose Lake Plant Materials Center
7472 Stoll Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
Phone: 517-641-6300
Fax: 517-641-4421
Plant Materials Specialist
517-641-7811

Visiting the PMC

Visitors are welcome at the Rose Lake Plant Materials Center. The center is open Monday-Friday 8:00AM-4:30PM, closed all Federal holidays. Please call the PMC to ensure that someone will be available.

Rose Lake PMC is located on the northeast side of East Lansing, MI. Take I-69 exit # 94 East Lansing; turn east on Old M78, north on Upton Rd. and West on Stoll Rd. The PMC is approximately 1 mile west on Stoll Road.

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What We Do:
The Rose Lake Plant Materials Center (PMC) is one of a national network of plant centers dedicated to providing vegetative solutions to conservation problems. The Rose Lake PMC releases plants and develops plant science technology for conservation purposes.

Primary Focus:
The primary focus of the Rose Lake PMC is:
- Evaluate and increase the availability of plants for conservation uses
- Management and monitoring of invasive species
- Government to Government relationships with Native American Tribes
- Conservation of threatened or endangered plants
- Encourage the use of native plant species in conservation plantings
- Innovative conservation technologies
- Training and information development

Robert Olivarrí, Tribal Head Veteran, of the Match-E-Nash-She-Wish band of Potawatomi Indians working with sweetgrass.

East Lansing, Michigan

Plant Materials Centers located around the U.S.

Map to the Rose Lake PMC