



# Bismarck Plant Materials Program Tribal Outreach

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<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>

The Bismarck Plant Materials Center (PMC) is active in providing seed, plants, and technical information assistance to Tribes and Tribal land users. The majority of plant species provided are culturally significant. The PMC also provides seed and plants of other species for conservation purposes, including lakeshore stabilization, erosion control, and invasive species competition. Plant and seed requests are reviewed and approved by Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota Plant Materials Committees. Most of these plantings are community projects established by local youth and adults to be used for hands-on demonstration and educational purposes. Generally, special plantings are limited to 10 plants of each species. Cooperators are encouraged to prepare a clean-tilled, garden-like site, and to water and weed the plantings until they become established. Sweetgrass and white sage are rhizomatous and multiply rapidly on well-maintained sites. With proper maintenance, plants can be easily divided and distributed to additional community members in future years.

Since 2002, approximately 6,300 sweetgrass plants have been distributed, primarily to individual Tribal cooperators and communities.

### Plant Materials Provided in 2013:

- 1020 sweetgrass for 13 sites
- 498 white sage plants for 9 sites
- 200 prairie cordgrass for 4 sites
- 14 species of fruit trees/shrubs for 12 sites
- 19 species of other plant materials for 8 sites



Technical assistance, plant materials distribution, and evaluations are ongoing with Tribal partners. Activities in recent years include:

- **United Tribes Technical College (UTTC):** provided native plants and seeds; medicine wheel assistance; class presentations; demonstration plantings.
- **Sisseton-Wahpeton Tribal College:** provided plants, prairie restoration assistance.
- **Rosebud Reservation and Sinte Gleska University:** provided native plants; presentations; medicine wheel assistance.
- **Standing Rock Reservation and Sitting Bull Tribal College:** provided native plants; training; PMC tour for summer students.
- **Fort Berthold Reservation:** native landscaping presentation; native landscape demonstration planting; native plants.
- **Mille Lacs Reservation:** provided native plants; plant identification assistance; lakeshore stabilization assistance.
- **White Earth Reservation:** provided plants, field plantings; technical information on native seed harvest; plant identification and inventory; lakeshore stabilization assistance.
- **Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College and Fond du Lac Reservation:** provided plants, medicine wheel assistance; presentation; assistance with outdoor classroom and wetland planting.
- **Red Lake Reservation:** provided plants; tour; and technical assistance.
- **Prairie Island:** provided plants.
- **Upper Sioux Community:** provided plants.

For more information, contact:  
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## Helping People Help the Land

The authority for NRCS to provide technical assistance to Tribal cooperators is through various Public Laws, Executive Orders, and Memorandums. The foundation of the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Indian Tribes is the United States Constitution, treaties, and other laws involving American Indians and Alaska Natives, including case law.



*Redosier dogwood at Upper Sioux Community*



*White sage at Upper Sioux Community*



*Prairie cordgrass growing in Upper Sioux gardens*



*Yellow coneflower at United Tribes Technical College*



*Sweetgrass thriving in a Standing Rock tribal garden*



*Leadplant for tea extract at a tribal landowner location near Sisseton*



*A good stand of newly seeded native grasses at United Tribes Technical College; a mix of PMC releases of western wheatgrass, blue grama, sideoats grama, and little bluestem*

