

Seed of Newest PMC Release Now Available

Bounty Germplasm big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) was released by the PMC in 2012 for conservation use in native plantings throughout the Northern Great Plains and Upper Midwest. It is a leafy, fine-stemmed, early-maturing selection that ranks high in protein and feed value when compared with other big bluestem varieties adapted to this area. Because of its broad genetic diversity, high forage quality, and good seed production, Bounty is expected to perform well throughout this region. Foundation seed is available from the PMC.



Bounty Germplasm big bluestem seed production field at the Bismarck Plant Materials Center

Seed Availability

Commercial grass and forb seed production was fairly good across the Northern Great Plains in 2014. Growers appear to have replenished inventories of most species that were severely impacted by the 2012 drought. However, supplies of some species may still be limited in some locations, so potential consumers should consider reserving their seed as soon as possible.

Be Sure to Plant the Right Seed

Most rural landowners who plant grasses, forbs, and/or legumes are likely enrolled in NRCS cost share programs that reimburse landowner costs associated with seeding. All seed planted in those acres must meet the requirements specified in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) if it is to be eligible for reimbursement from NRCS. The FOTG lists the acceptable seed origin, species, variety, and seeding rate for planting program acres.

Seed vendors need to be cognizant of these requirements as they work with landowners, to be sure they are using the approved varieties for the state or area where the seeding will be done. There have been several instances where landowners have received seed mixes that include species, varieties, or origin material that does not comply with local NRCS guidelines, and thus are not eligible for reimbursement.

The bottom line for vendors is to provide customers with seed that will be eligible for reimbursement under NRCS guidelines. To find out which seed meets those requirements, contact your local NRCS office. For helpful information on variety selection, download the [Origins of Native Grass and Forb Releases](#) publication available on the PMC website.

Potential Future Releases

The PMC is currently evaluating several grass species for future release. These include Virginia wildrye, Indiangrass, prairie sandreed, prairie dropseed, and sand bluestem.

There are no released northern sources of Virginia wildrye available in the marketplace. This PMC selection has a broad genetic base source from plants collected from 77 counties in North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota. A new production field has been established at the PMC to ensure ample supplies of seed upon release. This selection will be included in field plantings across our three-state region in 2015, and is currently being evaluated in several conservation field trial plots in Minnesota and South Dakota. These plantings will allow us to collect more data and further evaluate this selection across our region, as we prepare for its release.

Vendor Lists

We continue to maintain two seed vendor lists: 1) the [Conservation Seed/Plant Vendor List -- MN, ND, and SD](#), and 2) the [Prairie Landscaping Seed/Plant Vendor List -- MN, ND and SD](#). These lists can be accessed via the weblinks above or at the

Who We Are

The Bismarck Plant Materials Center (PMC) is one of 27 PMCs operated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The Bismarck PMC serves the States of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. It is the mission of the plant materials program to develop plant materials and plant science technology for the conservation of our natural resources. The Bismarck PMC was established in 1954 as part of the Soil Conservation Service, now Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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[Bismarck PMC publications webpage](#) under the 'other publications' category. If you are aware of additional providers that should be considered for one or both of these lists, please contact the PMC with that information.

Growers of Bismarck PMC Releases

The PMC experienced good demand for foundation seed in 2014, so inventories of some releases may be limited or unavailable. Species in shortest supply are indicated (**) on the price list below. There are ample quantities of Badlands little bluestem, Bison and Bonilla big bluestem, and Forestburg switchgrass available for growers this spring. The PMC is working to establish new production fields to increase availability of the varieties in short supply. A considerable amount of Foundation 'Manifest' intermediate wheatgrass (a 2007 PMC release) has been supplied to several growers the past two seasons. It appears there will be ample supplies of commercial seed available in 2015. Brochures that provide detailed information on all of the PMC releases are available online at the '[Publications](#)' link found on the [Bismarck PMC home page](#).

Foundation Seed Order Information 2015

Listed in the table are prices of Foundation and Select Class grass and forb seed produced by the Bismarck PMC. This seed is for sale through NDSU Foundation Seedstocks to commercial seed growers for the sole purpose of certified seed production. To order seed, contact [Wayne Markegard@nd.usda.gov](mailto:Wayne.Markegard@nd.usda.gov) or call (701) 530-2075. All seed prices are subject to change. Once ordered, a confirmation letter will be sent from the PMC and billing will be sent from NDSU Foundation Seedstocks. Payment in full to NDSU Foundation Seedstocks must be received before seed shipment. If payment is not received within 30 days, the order will be cancelled. Prices are based on a Pure Live Seed (PLS) pound. Shipping charges (in the U.S.) will be \$1.00/PLS pound.

RELEASES	CLASS*	COMMON NAME	COST/PLS LB
Native Warm-Season Grasses			U. S. Dollars
Badlands Ecotype	Select (G2)	little bluestem	21.00
Itasca Germplasm	Select (G2)	little bluestem	**21.00
Bad River Ecotype	Select (G2)	blue grama	**25.00
Bison	Foundation	big bluestem	12.00
Bonilla	Foundation	big bluestem	12.00
Bounty Germplasm	Select (G1)	big bluestem	12.00
Dacotah	Foundation	switchgrass	**9.00
Forestburg	Foundation	switchgrass	9.00
Pierre	Foundation	sideoats grama	14.00
Red River Germplasm	Select (G1)	prairie cordgrass	**80.00
Tomahawk	Foundation	Indiangrass	**20.00
Native Cool-Season Grasses			
Lodorm	Foundation	green needlegrass	**13.00
Mandan	Foundation	Canada wildrye	12.00
Rodan	Foundation	western wheatgrass	13.00
Introduced Grasses			
Mankota	Foundation	Russian wildrye	9.00
Nordan	Foundation	crested wheatgrass	5.00
Manifest	Foundation	intermediate wheatgrass	8.00
Manska	Foundation	pubescent wheatgrass	**8.00
Reliant	Foundation	intermediate wheatgrass	8.00
Native Forbs/Legumes			
Bismarck Germplasm	Select (G1)	narrow-leaved purple coneflower	300.00
Bismarck Germplasm	Select (G1)	purple prairieclover	**35.00
Bismarck Germplasm	Select (G1)	stiff sunflower	**350.00
Medicine Creek Germplasm	Select (G1)	Maximilian sunflower	50.00

*Generation number for select class materials is shown in parentheses (G1 = generation 1).

**Contact us for availability.