



## Irrigation System to be Fully Operational at the PMC in 2019

The development and installation of a new irrigation system at the Bismarck Plant Materials Center (PMC) has been a slow but forward-moving process that began in the fall of 2016 and will finally be fully operational in 2019. The construction of the 2.5-mile Missouri River water supply line was completed adjacent to the PMC/Nursery property line in December 2018. The new floating irrigation pump will be installed this spring. This new system



will provide an efficient and timely option to ensure that water is available for optimum Foundation seed production. Consistent ability to provide timely irrigation water has been an issue at the PMC since the 2011 Missouri River flood.

## Potential Future Releases

The PMC is working on the proposed release of 'Tober Germplasm' Virginia wildrye. Additional data from PMC plots will be collected and summarized this summer and added to the release documentation. Dwight Tober began the initial native collections and was involved in selection of germplasm for the proposed release. The selection has a broad genetic base sourced from plants collected from 77 counties in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota. It has performed well in off-center plantings in our 3-state region and at the PMC. The goal is to have Foundation seed of this release available for the 2020 planting season.

The PMC continues to evaluate other herbaceous species for potential future release. These include selections of prairie dropseed, cupplant, and sand bluestem.

## Vendor Lists

The PMC maintains two seed vendor lists: 1) the [Conservation Seed/Plant Vendors List](#) and 2) the [Prairie Landscaping Seed/Plant Vendors List](#). These can be accessed via the web links above or at the [Bismarck PMC publications webpage](#) under the 'other publications' category. If you are aware of additional providers that should be considered for one or both lists, please contact the PMC.

## Growers of Bismarck PMC Releases

As indicated in Table 1, the PMC has a good supply of Foundation seed for several grass releases, but has limited to no availability for others. The PMC is committed to maintaining inventories of its releases, and continues to add new production fields for species with little or no available seed. Brochures that provide detailed information for all PMC releases are available at the '[Publications](#)' link found on the [Bismarck PMC home page](#). From a vendor's perspective, it appears there will be ample supplies of commercial seed available for most species.

### Who We Are

The Bismarck Plant Materials Center (PMC) is one of 25 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.

#### USDA-NRCS

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[Bismarck PMC Homepage](#)

## Prohibited Noxious Weeds

New invasive weeds have recently been added to state noxious and invasive weed lists in our area. All seed and crop producers are advised to be aware of those changes. One of those of major concern is Palmer Amaranth which continues to spread northward and might be mistaken for one of its cousins, pigweed or waterhemp. There are good resources available from local Extension offices that provide detailed information on identification and control of this and other invasive noxious weeds.

## Foundation Seed Order Information 2019

Listed in table 1 are prices of Foundation and Select Class grass 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) 989-6122. 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 or pickup. Prices are based on a Pure Live Seed (PLS) pound.

**Table 1**

	CLASS*	COMMON NAME	COST/PLS LB	AVAILABILITY
<b>Native Warm-Season Grasses</b>			<b>U.S. Dollars</b>	
Badlands Ecotype	Select (G2)	little bluestem	20.00	good
Itasca Germplasm	Select (G2)	little bluestem	20.00	limited
Bad River Ecotype	Select (G2)	blue grama	20.00	good
Bison	Foundation	big bluestem	16.00	good
Bonilla	Foundation	big bluestem	16.00	good
Bounty Germplasm	Select (G1)	big bluestem	16.00	good
Dacotah	Foundation	switchgrass	15.00	limited
Forestburg	Foundation	switchgrass	15.00	good
Pierre	Foundation	sideoats grama	14.00	good
Red River Germplasm	Select (G1)	prairie cordgrass	95.00	limited
Tomahawk	Foundation	Indiangrass	20.00	limited
<b>Native Cool-Season Grasses</b>				
Lodorm	Foundation	green needlegrass	18.00	limited
Mandan	Foundation	Canada wildrye		None Available
Rodan	Foundation	western wheatgrass		None Available
<b>Introduced Grasses</b>				
Mankota	Foundation	Russian wildrye	6.00	good
Nordan	Foundation	crested wheatgrass		None Available
Manifest	Foundation	intermediate wheatgrass	6.00	Limited
Manska	Foundation	pubescent wheatgrass	6.00	good
Reliant	Foundation	intermediate wheatgrass		None Available
<b>Native Forbs/Legumes</b>				
Bismarck Germplasm	Select (G1)	narrow-leaved purple coneflower		None Available
Bismarck Germplasm	Select (G1)	purple prairie clover		None Available
Bismarck Germplasm	Select (G1)	stiff sunflower		None Available
Medicine Creek Germplasm	Select (G1)	Maximilian sunflower		None Available