South Texas

Contact Us
Visitors are welcome at the PMC. Please call before visiting to ensure a staff member will be available.

USDA-NRCS
E. “Kika” de la Garza Plant Materials Center
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Who We Are
The E. “Kika” de la Garza Plant Materials Center (PMC) is part of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The PMC is one in a national network of 27 plant materials centers providing vegetative solutions to conservation challenges. This PMC was established in 1981 to serve approximately 27 million acres of the southern portion of Texas. The PMC is operated by the USDA NRCS, in cooperation with an Advisory Board from Texas A&M University-Kingsville, the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute (CKWRI), South Texas Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, and the Gulf Coast Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts.

What We Do
The PMC is a 91-acre facility located in Kingsville, Texas that provides cost-effective vegetative solutions for soil and water conservation problems in southern Texas. This means identifying plants and developing techniques for successful conservation use. It also means assisting in the commercial development of these plants and promoting their use in natural resource conservation and other environmental programs.

Plant testing and selection, as well as the development of new plant science technologies, are the primary products of our program. The process of releasing promising plant materials requires the assembly of plants, initial evaluation of plant performance, establishment of a seed nursery, advanced evaluation of management techniques for establishment and production, and field testing on diverse problem sites. The current program emphasis at the PMC is in the following areas:

- Rangeland habitat restoration & enhancement
- Erosion control & water quality improvement on agricultural land
- Coastal habitat restoration & enhancement
- Coastal shoreline stability
- Biofuels

Training and Outreach
The staff at the PMC also conducts training sessions and workshops on topics such as rangeland and wildlife habitat restoration, plant and seed collection, plant identification and agronomic practices.

Visit us Online
For additional information about the plant materials program and the PMC, visit the following Web site: http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov.