



New Training Center and Farm Office



Construction is underway for a new training center and farm office at the PMC. The new building is scheduled to be completed on January 28, 2011. The building will provide space for farm operations, meetings, and



trainings at the center, as well as provide additional space for the PMC to use new laboratory equipment in order to develop new methods for cleaning seed and meeting the needs of our customers.

Garden Club Tours Center

Members of the Haskell Chapter of the Garden club visited the Plant Materials Center on October 12, 2010. The twenty-one members heard a presentation by Gary Rea on the history of the plant materials center here in Knox City, TX. He also explained the purpose and responsibilities of the center and centers across the United States. After the presentation, the group took a tour of the laboratory equipment, field plots, and greenhouse.

Burn Training Scheduled for February



The PMC along with members from Zone 1 and Zone 5 are planning a prescribed burn training during the month of February. The date for the training has not been permanently set due to current drought conditions and unpredictable Texas weather. Plans are underway to burn the ten acre native prairie located at the center.



Interested participants should contact their zone specialists or the PMC for details on the training.

Plant Collection List Changes

We have received many plant collections from field offices and individuals and are extremely thankful to each one that has taken the time to collect and send seed to us. We are changing our list to remove the species that we have received enough to move forward and begin testing. We are also adding several new species in an attempt to build a “pipe-line”. Plants we are no longer collecting are vine mesquite, *Panicum obtusum*, blue grama, *Bouteloua gracilis*, and western wheatgrass, *Pascopyrum smithii*. Plants we are still collecting are:

- Prairie bundleflower, *Desmanthus leptolobus*
- Showy menodora, *Menodora longiflora*
- Smartweed, *Polygonum pensylvanicum*
- Texas cupgrass, *Eriochloa sericea*
- Threeflower melic, *Melica nitens*



Program Emphasis

The mission of the James E. “Bud” Smith PMC is to develop and transfer effective state-of-the-art plant science technology to meet customer and resource needs. The PMC conducts plantings and studies at the Center and off center with cooperating partners.

Plant and Technology Objectives of the PMC	
1	Wind and Water Erosion Control
2	Range and Pasture Improvement
3	Wildlife Habitat Improvement
4	Water Quality Improvement on Agricultural Land
5	Biofuels
6	Saline Site Restoration

James E. “Bud” Smith Plant Materials Center

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) James E. “Bud” Smith Plant Materials Center (PMC) located near Knox City, Texas, was established in 1965. It is one of the 27 Centers located throughout the United States. The Center is responsible for developing conservation plants and cultural techniques for use within targeted Major Land Resource Areas (MLRA) in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, and New Mexico. The Center is also responsible for producing Breeder and Foundation seed of plant releases and assisting in commercial development and promoting their use in natural resource conservation. The PMC serves all or portions of 136 counties in Texas that comprises parts of 25 MLRAs, and the areas served in all or portions of 39 counties in southwestern Oklahoma comprising parts of thirteen MLRAs. The PMC also serves a portion of seven counties in southwestern Kansas including parts of four MLRAs, a portion of one county in the southeastern corner of Colorado comprising parts of three MLRAs, and a portion of seven counties in eastern New Mexico comprising parts of seven MLRAs.

The PMC is located approximately four and a half miles northwest of Knox City, Texas, in the Rolling Red Plains MLRA.

James E. “Bud” Smith PMC Personnel

- Dr. Gary Rea- Manager
- Brandon Carr- Soil Conservationist
- Randy Kuehler- Biological Science Technician (Plants)
- Mark S. Bennett- Biological Science Aid (part-time, summer only)

Visit the PMC website for more information and publications:

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

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