



NRCS Pullman Plant Materials Center 2020 Progress Report of Activities

February 2021

This report highlights the major activities at the Washington Plant Materials Center (WAPMC) during 2020. For more detailed information, contact the PMC at (509) 330-5636.

Studies

Legume Cover Crop Advanced Line Trial Study

The WAPMC is continuing to cooperate with USDA-ARS and several universities in the multi-year legume cover crop advanced line trials. The objective of the project is to improve cover crop performance through germplasm screening and selection. As part of a nationwide study, three legume species, crimson clover, hairy vetch, and Austrian winter pea, are being evaluated at the WAPMC (20-inch annual precipitation zone). Using standard varieties of each species as checks, we can provide information for efficient selection of experimental lines and identify regionally adapted varieties. The goal is to identify new varieties of legume cover crops best suited to local conditions to give growers more options to improve soil health.



Figure 1. Planting the legume cover crop advanced line study.

Outreach

Training

In 2020, the WAPMC provided trainings and information to NRCS field staff and NRCS Pathways interns using virtual means. The PMC and the Washington Ecological Sciences Team provided training on agronomy, social and economic considerations, plant materials, forestry, range science, biology, and National Environmental Policy Act.



- Plant study trials in 3 states
- Agronomy, Range/Pasture, Forestry

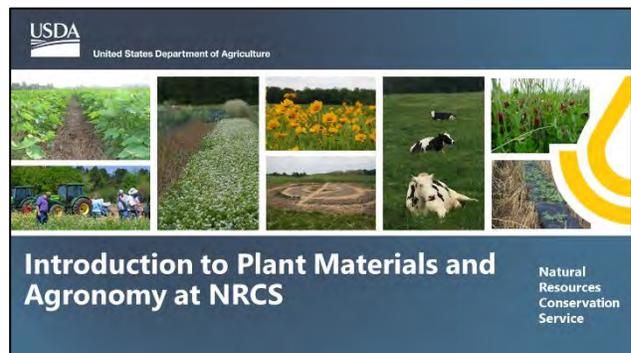


Figure 2. Providing soil health training to Ecological Sciences Pathway Students

Plant Materials Program Products and Technology Transfer

The WAPMC released the final study report, “[Evaluation of Annual Cool Season Cover Crop Varieties for the Inland Pacific Northwest](#)” in June of 2020. This product was the result from data collected during a two-year study that evaluated the adaptation of cover crops for the inland Pacific northwest region.

The WAPMC each year produces high quality Breeder seed of our eleven plant releases. These plant materials are available through the Washington Crop Improvement Association for production of Foundation seed fields.



Figure 3. Breeder seed plots of 'Latar', Union Flat and 'Bromar' growing on the WAPMC.

USDA-NRCS Pullman Plant Materials Center Staff

Allen Casey, PMC Manager (Jan - Nov 2020)

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<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/plantmaterials/pmc/west/wapmc/>

