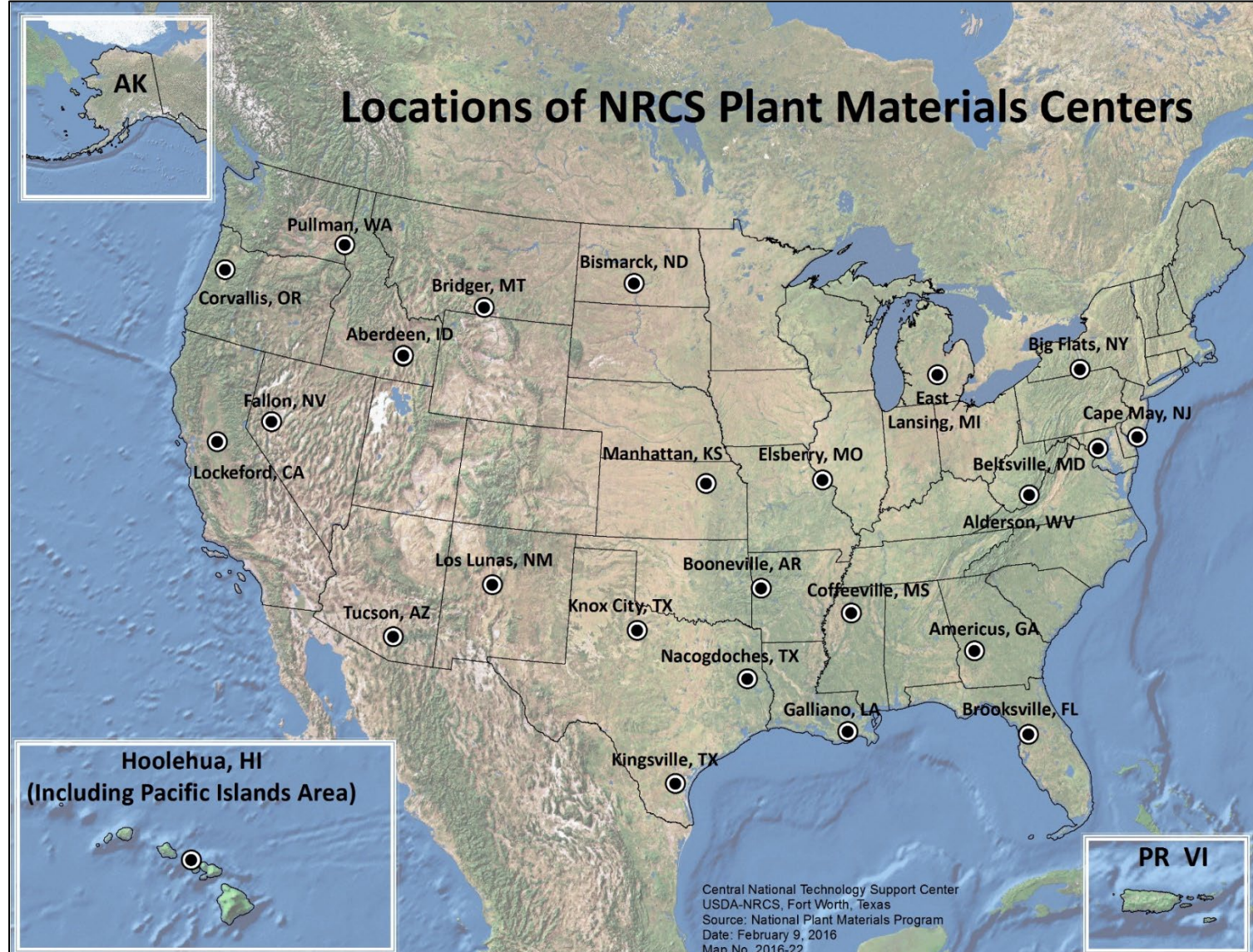




# NRCS Plant Materials Centers



**Mission of the PMC Program**  
*PMCs evaluate plants for use in conservation programs to solve natural resource concerns.*



# Brief History of PMCs

- 1935 – The Soil Conservation Service established nurseries to grow seed and trees for soil stabilization demonstration projects. Nurseries began to evaluate plants with improved or desired traits.
- 1954 – Nurseries closed and some reopened as Plant Materials Centers, retaining only the plant evaluation function.





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# Plant Materials Centers



- Each PMC is a working farm dedicated to plant evaluation, science-based studies, and seed and plant increase.
- Land base: Range 40-360 acres per PMC; total 1,905 acres owned by NRCS and 2,208 acres leased from other entities.
- Facilities: Typical PMC includes an office, greenhouse, shade house, shop, seed cleaning facilities, seed and plant storage, and equipment storage; average of about 15,000 sq ft/PMC.
- Equipment: Tractors, combines, specialized seed harvesting and cleaning, farm implements, lab equipment such as driers and seed germinators.



# The NRCS Plant Materials Program



## Mission

*Plant Materials Centers assemble and test plant species for use in conservation practices and programs to solve natural resource concerns.*

## Vision

*A Plant Materials Program functioning as the plant experts for NRCS, fully integrated and coordinated with technical and field office staff, developing and delivering vegetative solutions and conservation technology for NRCS customers.*



# Why are PMCs in NRCS?

- Historically, pre-PMCs were conservation nurseries which produced seed and plants for Soil Conservation Service demonstration projects.
- Through the 1990s, PMCs are the only entity selecting plants for natural resource conservation activities.
- Today, PMCs provide important information on using vegetation in NRCS conservation practices and programs which is not available elsewhere.



# Functions of Plant Materials Centers

- Evaluate plants for natural resource conservation
- Develop technology and tools for the establishment and management of plant materials for conservation practices
- Provide plant materials training and presentations to field staff, partners, farmers, and the public
- Produce technical documents to inform field staff, farmers and ranchers, and the public
- Release promising new plant selections to commercial growers
- Maintain breeder and foundation seed and plant stocks to ensure that high quality starter materials are available to commercial growers

<http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov>





# How are PMC products used?

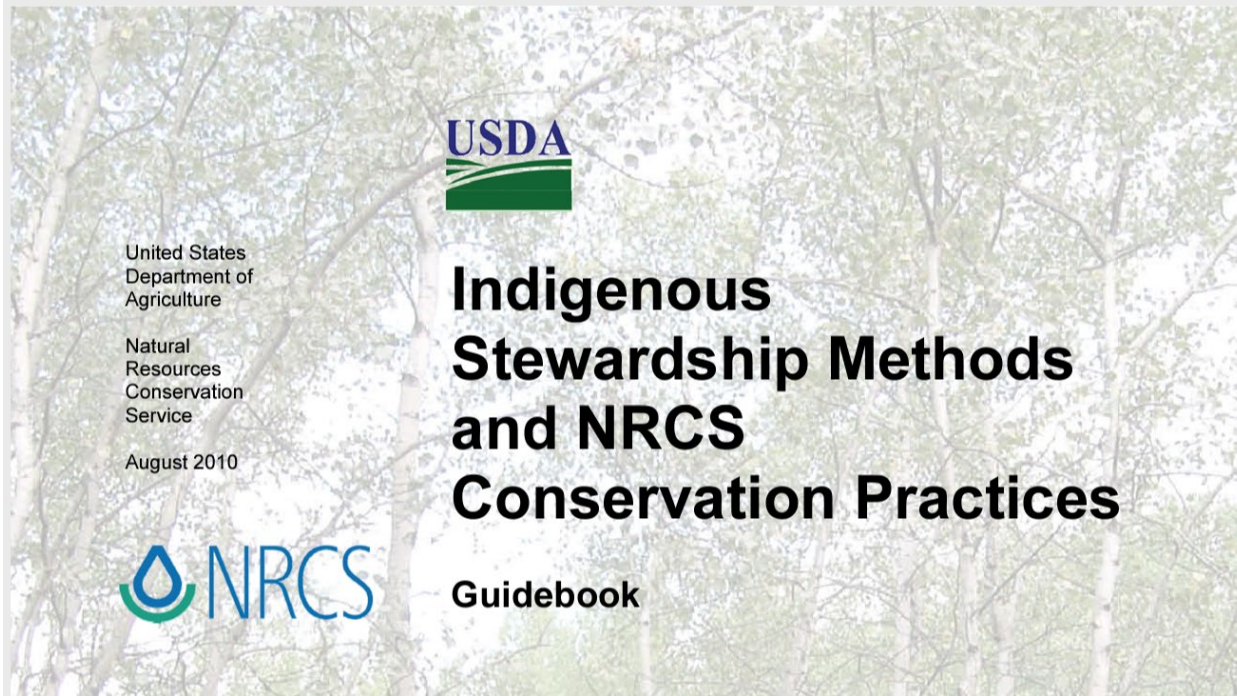
- Supporting documentation for conservation practices
- Integration into conservation practices implementation requirements and job sheets
- Key information included in State common plant and seeding lists
- Plant attributes and data to support NRCS models and planning tools
- Training materials for field staff and conservation partners
- Products and information used by NRCS staff, other Federal and State agencies, NGOs, contractors, and the public







# Example Products



Natural Resources Conservation Service

East National Technology Support Center

Plant Materials Program

May 2021

Plant Materials Technical Note No. 4

## Giant Cane and Other Native Bamboos: Establishment and Use for Conservation of Natural Resources in the Southeast



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# Plant Materials Needs Assessment

- Home
- Documents
- Site Contents
- Recent
- Needs Assessment

Welcome to the SharePoint site for the Plant Materials Needs Assessment. The assessment can be reached by clicking the hyperlink below or from the link on the menu to the left. The list contains needs formally identified by States and assigned an ID number. PMC progress and products developed to address each need are recorded and available for review. The list is filterable by each column.

## Needs Assessment

[Needs Assessment Instructions for Plant Materials Staff](#)

[Needs Assessment Instructions for State Staff](#)

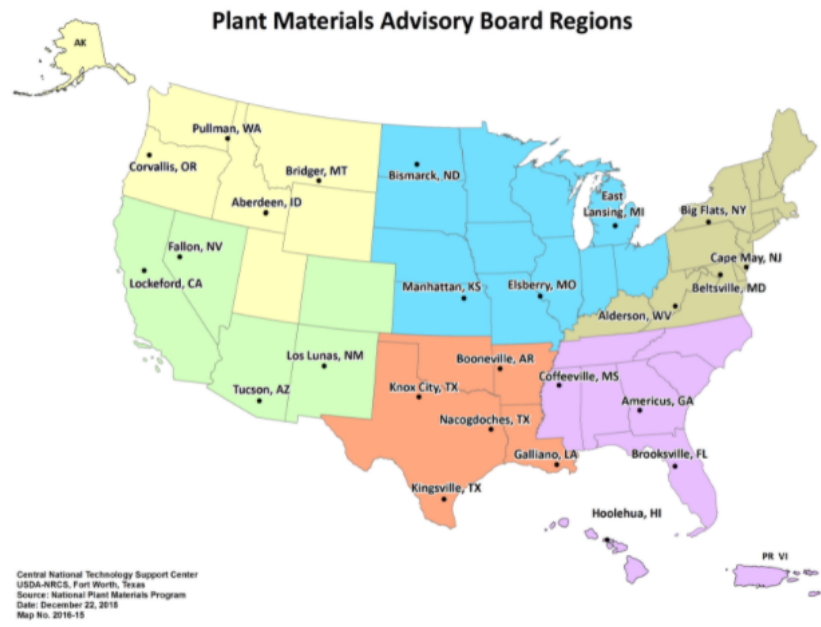
### Plant Materials Staff:

For activities conducted in support of the **Climate Smart Agriculture Action Plan** and/or the **Cover Crop Action Plan** that are not tracked in the Needs Assessment, please track them using the spreadsheet linked below. There is a tab in the spreadsheet for each action plan.

### Action Plan Activities Not Tracked in the Needs Assessment

### Needs Assessments Archive:

Completed needs and their associated products can be viewed [here](#) or by downloading the **completed needs** as of 10/12/2021. Needs categorized as no longer needed or not in PMC mission as of 10/12/2021 can be viewed [here](#).



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# Needs Assessment Example

Excel completed needs\_10122021 - Saved

Search (Alt + Q)

Kidwell-Slak, David - NRCS, Beltsville, MD

Share Comments Catch up

ID1	Year Identified	PMC Region	State or Center	Priority	Category	Identified Need	Contact	PMCs
205	2014	North Central	MN		urban conservation	Promote low water use and energy efficient landscaping.	Carissa Spencer	NDPMC;#NDPMS
59	206	2014	North Central	MN	culturally significant plants/ethnobotany	Develop and implement a plan for preservation of "native birch" and other species on Tribal lands.	Ginger Kopp, Dave Wise	NDPMC;#NDPMS
207	2014	North Central	MN		perennial grasses	Provide a fact sheet on Big Bluestem varieties for MN.	Mark Oja	NDPMC;#NDPMS
208	2014	North Central	MN		pollinator habitat	Partner with the West Central Research and Outreach Center on the pollinator demonstration site.	Mark Oja	NDPMC;#NDPMS
209	2014	North Central	MN		training	Provide technical assistance to growers and nurseries.	Mark Oja	NDPMC;#NDPMS
212	2014	North Central	MN		climate change	Monitor and evaluate demonstration plantings to determine species adaptability in local areas.	John Zinn	NDPMS;#NDPMC

