

## *Plants offer a natural solution*

The Tucson PMC selects conservation plants and develops innovative planting technology to address today's natural resource issues. The PMC service area encompasses the Sonoran, Chihuahuan, and Mojave deserts in areas of Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah. The Center develops and evaluates adapted plant materials and technologies for needs throughout the service area.

The Center's conservation plant releases include a variety of conservation shrubs and grasses such as, 'Loetta' Arizona cottontop, Batamote Germplasm desert zinnia, Bonita Germplasm plains lovegrass, Cochise Germplasm spike dropseed, 'Loetta' Arizona cottontop, Moapa Germplasm scratchgrass, Pima Germplasm Pima pappusgrass, Saltillo Origin Germplasm cane bluestem, 'Stevan' plains bristlegrass and Vegas Germplasm alkali sacaton. Many of these releases were developed in collaboration with partners such as the Bureau of Land Management, University of Arizona, and the Agricultural Research Service.



*PMC and Tucson Field Office staff provided information on how to transplant native plants and their ethnobotanical uses at the 2014 Tohono O'odham Youth Range Day. Participants were also shown how to press plants and were given an opportunity to press their own.*



*Saltillo Origin Germplasm cane bluestem may be used as an erosion control plant on rangelands and critical areas such as abandoned cropland and road cuts.*

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**Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov/azpmc**

To obtain information on conservation uses for plant releases, contact your local NRCS office. Seed or plants can be obtained from a commercial seed vendor or nursery in your area, or call your NRCS office or Plant Materials Center for local vendors.

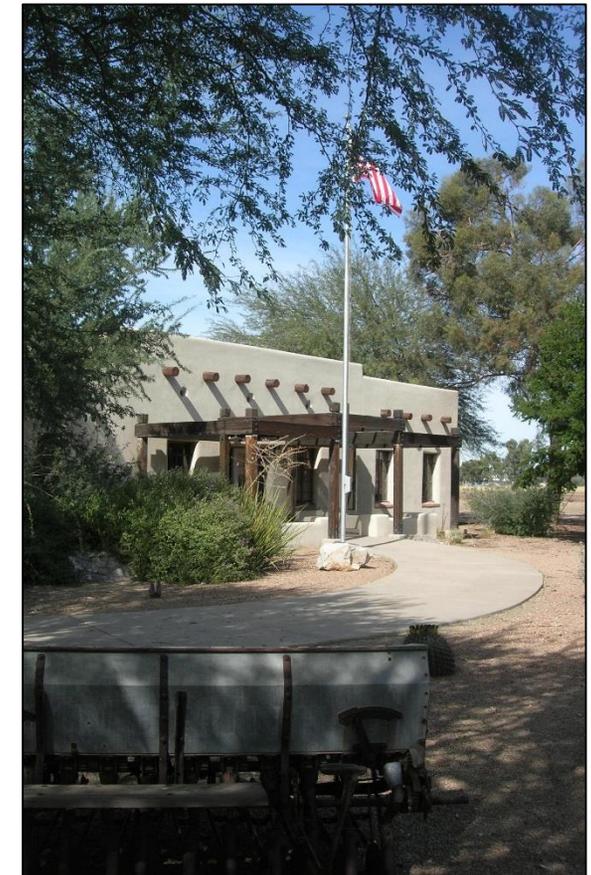
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United States Department of Agriculture

# **Tucson Plant Materials Center**



## ***Plant Solutions For Conservation Needs***

## *Plants make conservation happen*



The Tucson Plant Materials Center (PMC) is operated by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. In 1935, the USDA-NRCS recognized the need for adapted plant material for use in their conservation programs. To meet this need plant materials centers were established in critical areas throughout the United States. For over 80 years the Tucson PMC has developed and evaluated plant materials and technologies that have enhanced conservation efforts throughout the Sonoran, Mojave and Chihuahuan desert regions.

The PMC works closely with its customers to provide effective, cost-efficient vegetative solutions for conservation problems. Rangelands, mined lands, critical areas, urban and urban interface areas, riparian areas, croplands, water and air quality, invasive species, and wildlife habitat all present resource issues within the PMC service area.

The PMC works in partnership with NRCS field offices, conservation districts, federal and state agencies, non-profit groups, Tribes, and private landowners to improve resource technology.

In 1996, the Tucson Plant Materials Center was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.



**Plants hold the soil in place, protect stream banks, filter pollutants, and offer food and cover for wildlife. They heal the land following wildfire, mining, floods and drought. They beautify our surroundings.**

## *Many of today's environmental challenges can be addressed through the use of plants.*

### The Tucson Plant Materials Center

- ☞ Focuses on using plants as a natural way to solve conservation issues and re-establish ecosystem function.
- ☞ Collects and releases grasses, legumes, wildflowers, trees, and shrubs to commercial seed growers.
- ☞ Cooperates with public, private, commercial, Tribal partners, and land managers to apply new conservation methods using plants.
- ☞ Provides plant materials and applied technologies for NRCS national initiatives, such as the Farm Bill.
- ☞ Researches use of plants and technologies to battle invasive species, heal lands damaged by natural disasters, reduce the effects of drought, and promote air, soil, and water quality.
- ☞ Develops planting methodologies to ensure survival and persistence of native species used in the revegetation of abandoned croplands, invasive species dominated lands, and wildfire affected areas.
- ☞ Ensures long term seed availability and provides assistance to potential growers of native plants.

**Tours and training for the general public or special interest groups are available upon request. Visitors are always welcome. The center is open Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please call the PMC to ensure that a staff member will be available.**