



Bismarck Plant Materials Program Tribal Outreach

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

The Bismarck Plant Materials Center (PMC) is active in providing seed, plants, and technical assistance to Tribes and Tribal land users. The majority of plant species provided are culturally significant. The PMC also provides seed and plants of other species for conservation purposes, including lakeshore stabilization, erosion control, and invasive species competition. Plant and seed requests are reviewed and approved by Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota Plant Materials Committees. Most of these plantings are community projects established by local youth and adults to be used for hands-on demonstration and educational purposes. Generally, special plantings are limited to 10 plants of each species. Cooperators are encouraged to prepare a clean-tilled, garden-like site, and water and weed the plantings until they become established. Sweetgrass and white sage are rhizomatous and multiply rapidly on well-maintained sites. With proper maintenance, plants can be easily divided and distributed to additional community members in future years.

Since 2002, approximately 7,400 sweetgrass plants have been distributed, primarily to individual Tribal cooperators and communities.

Plant Materials Provided in 2014:

- 1210 plant transplants; 15 different species
- 500 tree and shrub transplants; 9 different species
- 18 cooperators from 12 different tribal communities
- 10 lbs of an 11-species cover crop mix divided into small seed packets for MN tribal workshop participants



Activities in recent years include:

- **United Tribes Technical College (UTTC):** provided native plants and seeds; medicine wheel assistance; class presentations; demonstration plantings.
- **Sisseton-Wahpeton Tribal College:** provided plants, prairie restoration assistance.
- **Rosebud Reservation and Sinte Gleska University:** provided native plants; presentations; medicine wheel assistance.
- **Standing Rock Reservation and Sitting Bull Tribal College:** provided native plants; training; PMC tour for summer students.
- **Fort Berthold Reservation:** native landscaping presentation; native landscape demonstration planting; native plants.
- **Mille Lacs Reservation:** provided native plants; plant identification assistance; lakeshore stabilization assistance.
- **White Earth Reservation:** provided plants, field plantings; technical information on native seed harvest; plant identification and inventory; lakeshore stabilization assistance.
- **Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College and Fond du Lac Reservation:** provided plants, medicine wheel assistance; presentation; assistance with outdoor classroom and wetland planting.
- **Red Lake Reservation:** provided plants; tour; and technical assistance.
- **Prairie Island:** provided plants.
- **Upper Sioux Community:** provided plants.

For more information, contact:
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Helping People Help the Land

The authority for NRCS to provide technical assistance to Tribal cooperators is through various Public Laws, Executive Orders, and Memorandums. The foundation of the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Indian Tribes is the United States Constitution, treaties, and other laws involving American Indians and Alaska Natives, including case law.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Chokeberry



White sage at Upper Sioux Community



Cover crop seed mix packets provided for Minnesota tribal workshop participants



Planting chokeberry by Crow Creek Sioux Tribal Wildlife Department



Evaluating a new Meyer's spruce transplant in a field planting near Dupree, South Dakota



Upper Sioux Tribal Community sweetgrass planting



Reflection garden at United Tribes Technical College



Medicine wheel planting at United Tribes Technical College