



# Seed News

February 2018

Plant Materials Center, Bismarck, North Dakota  
<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov/ndpmc>

## Irrigation Improvements at the PMC

The irrigation system at the Bismarck Plant Materials Center (PMC) is in a process



of transformation that began in the fall of 2016 and will be completed during the summer of 2018. Two 660' linear systems were installed and are currently operational on a limited basis. A 2.5-mile Missouri River water supply line and floating irrigation pump will be installed and become operational this year. Once completed, PMC Foundation seed fields will receive irrigation water in a more consistent, timely

manner. The anticipated outcome will be improved seed production on fields that have produced poorly of late, due to lack of timely watering.

## Potential Future Releases

The PMC is working toward release of a Virginia wildrye selection that will be named Tober germplasm to memorialize former Plant Materials Specialist, Dwight Tober, who recently passed away. Dwight began the initial native collections and was involved in selection of germplasm for the proposed release. The selection has a broad genetic base sourced from plants collected from 77 counties in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota. It has performed well in off-center plantings in our 3-state region and at the PMC.

The PMC continues to evaluate other herbaceous species for potential future release. These include selections of Indiangrass, prairie dropseed, cupplant, and sand bluestem.

## Vendor Lists

The PMC maintains two seed vendor lists: 1) the [Conservation Seed/Plant Vendors List](#) and 2) the [Prairie Landscaping Seed/Plant Vendors List](#). These can be accessed via the web links above or at the [Bismarck PMC publications webpage](#) under the 'other publications' category. If you are aware of additional providers that should be considered for one or both lists, please contact the PMC.

## Growers of Bismarck PMC Releases

As indicated in Table 1, the PMC has a good supply of Foundation seed for several grass releases, but has limited to no availability for others. The PMC is committed to maintaining inventories of its releases, and continues to add new production fields for species with little or no available seed. Brochures that provide detailed information for all PMC releases are available at the 'Publications' link found on the [Bismarck PMC home page](#). From a vendor's perspective, it appears there will be ample supplies of commercial seed available for most species.

## Order Information 2018

Listed in table 1 are prices of Foundation and Select Class grass seed produced by the Bismarck PMC. This seed is for sale through NDSU Foundation Seedstocks to commercial seed growers for the sole purpose of certified seed production. To order seed, contact [wayne.markegard@nd.usda.gov](mailto:wayne.markegard@nd.usda.gov) or call (701) 989-6122. All seed prices are subject

### Who We Are

The Bismarck Plant Materials Center (PMC) is one of 25 PMCs operated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The Bismarck PMC serves the States of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. It is the mission of the plant materials program to develop plant materials and plant science technology for the conservation of our natural resources. The Bismarck PMC was established in 1954 as part of the Soil Conservation Service, now Natural Resources Conservation Service.

#### USDA-NRCS

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#### Plant Materials Specialist

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<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/portal/nrcs/main/plantmaterials/pmc/central/ndpmc/>

to change. Once ordered, a confirmation letter will be sent from the PMC and billing will be sent from NDSU Foundation Seedstocks. Payment in full to NDSU Foundation Seedstocks must be received before seed shipment or pickup. Prices are based on a Pure Live Seed (PLS) pound.

<b>Table 1</b>	<b>CLASS*</b>	<b>COMMON NAME</b>	<b>COST/PLS LB</b>	<b>AVAILABILITY</b>
<b>Native Warm-Season Grasses</b>			<b>U.S. Dollars</b>	
Badlands Ecotype	Select (G2)	little bluestem	18.00	good
Itasca Germplasm	Select (G2)	little bluestem	18.00	limited
Bad River Ecotype	Select (G2)	blue grama	20.00	good
Bison	Foundation	big bluestem	18.00	good
Bonilla	Foundation	big bluestem	18.00	good
Bounty Germplasm	Select (G1)	big bluestem	18.00	good
Dacotah	Foundation	switchgrass	14.00	none
Forestburg	Foundation	switchgrass	14.00	good
Pierre	Foundation	sideoats grama	15.00	good
Red River Germplasm	Select (G1)	prairie cordgrass	105.00	limited
Tomahawk	Foundation	Indiangrass	20.00	limited
<b>Native Cool-Season Grasses</b>				
Lodorm	Foundation	green needlegrass	20.00	none
Mandan	Foundation	Canada wildrye	18.00	none
Rodan	Foundation	western wheatgrass	10.00	none
<b>Introduced Grasses</b>				
Mankota	Foundation	Russian wildrye	6.00	good
Nordan	Foundation	crested wheatgrass	6.00	limited
Manifest	Foundation	intermediate wheatgrass	6.00	none
Manska	Foundation	pubescent wheatgrass	6.50	limited
Reliant	Foundation	intermediate wheatgrass	6.00	none
<b>Native Forbs/Legumes</b>				
Bismarck Germplasm	Select (G1)	narrow-leaved purple coneflower		none
Bismarck Germplasm	Select (G1)	purple prairie clover		none
Bismarck Germplasm	Select (G1)	stiff sunflower		none
Medicine Creek Germplasm	Select (G1)	Maximilian sunflower		none