



## Tober Germplasm Virginia Wildrye Scheduled for 2020 Release

The NRCS Bismarck Plant Materials Center (PMC) is currently working on release documentation for Tober germplasm Virginia wildrye, hoping to have it available for distribution this summer. This selection has a broad genetic base sourced from plants collected from 79 different geographical locations in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota. Extensive field plantings of Tober germplasm have been established and evaluated in MN, ND, and SD over the past 4 years. This selection has performed well in every planting. It works best when seeded with other grasses in herbaceous perennial mixes. Virginia wildrye is similar in growth habit, biomass production, and nutritional quality to Canada wildrye and slender wheatgrass. It establishes quickly and exhibits vigorous growth in the initial seeding year. The PMC has seed on hand, so once the release is approved interested growers could get Generation 1 (for seed increase) seed for summer or fall delivery this year.



*Tober germplasm Virginia wildrye*

## Vendor Lists

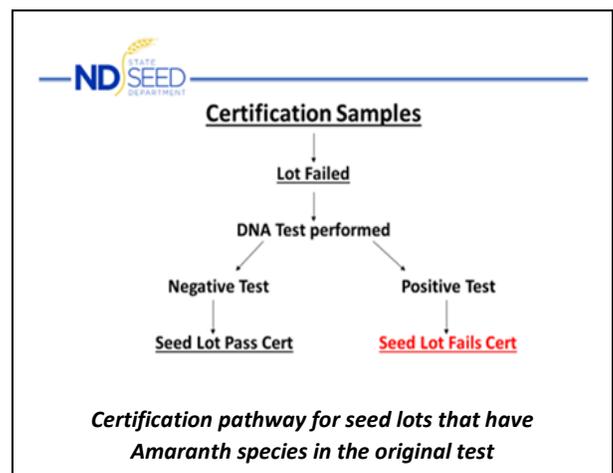
The PMC maintains two seed vendor lists: 1) the [Conservation Seed/Plant Vendors List](#) and 2) the [Prairie Landscaping Seed/Plant Vendors List](#). These can be accessed via the web links above or at the [Bismarck PMC publications webpage](#) under the 'other publications' category. If you are aware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

## Prohibited Noxious Weeds

New invasive and noxious weeds have recently been added to state prohibited noxious weed lists in our area. All seed and crop producers are advised to be aware of those changes. A weed of major concern is Palmer Amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*) which continues to spread northward and can be mistaken for one of its amaranth cousins, pigweed or waterhemp. Seed that meets certification standards cannot contain any Palmer amaranth seed. All Foundation seed from the PMC is tested and certified by the ND State Seed Lab. They have added a new standard for seed that contains any amaranth species found in their normal seed test. If amaranth is visually detected in the sample, the seed lot will fail certification. However, the amaranth species in the sample can be DNA tested to determine if Palmer amaranth is present. If the DNA test is negative for Palmer amaranth, the seed lot will pass certification, if other standards are met. If Palmer amaranth is present, the seed lot will fail certification. There are good resources available from state department of Ag and local Extension offices that provide detailed information on identification and control of this and other invasive and prohibited noxious weeds.



## Foundation Seed Order Information 2020

Listed in table 1 below 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, or call (701) 989-6122 or (701) 530-4330. If certain varieties become unavailable, growers can ask to be added to the reserved seed list, and they will be contacted when new seed is again available. All seed prices are subject 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.

**Table 1**

RELEASES	CLASS*	COMMON NAME	COST/PLS LB
<b>Native Warm-Season Grasses</b>			<b>U. S. Dollars</b>
Badlands ecotype	Select (G2)	little bluestem	21.00
Itasca germplasm	Select (G2)	little bluestem	21.00**
Bad River ecotype	Select (G2)	blue grama	19.00
Bison	Foundation	big bluestem	16.00
Bonilla	Foundation	big bluestem	16.00
Bounty Germplasm	Select (G1)	big bluestem	16.00
Dacotah	Foundation	switchgrass	15.00
Forestburg	Foundation	switchgrass	15.00
Pierre	Foundation	sideoats grama	15.00
Red River germplasm	Select (G1)	prairie cordgrass	100.00**
Tomahawk	Foundation	Indiangrass	19.00
<b>Native Cool-Season Grasses</b>			
Lodorm	Foundation	green needlegrass	14.00**
Mandan	Foundation	Canada wildrye	16.00**
Rodan	Foundation	western wheatgrass	10.00**
<b>Introduced Grasses</b>			
Mankota	Foundation	Russian wildrye	10.00
Nordan	Foundation	crested wheatgrass	Not Available
Manifest	Foundation	intermediate wheatgrass	6.00
Manska	Foundation	pubescent wheatgrass	6.00
Reliant	Foundation	intermediate wheatgrass	Not Available
<b>Native Forbs/Legumes</b>			
Bismarck germplasm	Select (G1)	narrow-leaved purple	Not Available
Bismarck germplasm	Select (G1)	purple prairieclover	Not Available
Bismarck germplasm	Select (G1)	stiff sunflower	Not Available
Medicine Creek germplasm	Select (G1)	Maximilian sunflower	Not Available

\*Generation number for select class material is shown in parentheses (G1 = generation 1).

\*\***Contact PMC for Availability**

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