

Seed News

January 2021
Plant Materials Center, Bismarck, North Dakota
<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov/ndpmc>

New Release Available-(*Tober Germplasm Virginia wildrye*)

Tober Germplasm Virginia wildrye was officially released by the Bismarck Plant Materials Center (PMC) in August 2020. It has a broad genetic base sourced from plants at 78 sites across the Dakota's and Minnesota. Virginia wildrye is a cool-season bunchgrass native to various parts of the US, including the Great Plains. Preference is for moist rather than dry growing conditions. It is a short-lived species but can readily reseed. It is similar to Canada wildrye in growth habit, biomass, and nutritional quality. However, seed glumes are stiffer and awns are shorter than those of Canada wildrye. It establishes quickly and exhibits vigorous growth the year of seeding. At Bismarck, seed production has been greatest the first couple of years after seeding, averaging 400-500 lbs/ac. The release is eligible for certification as Select Class (green tag) through Seed Certification programs in your State. Seed (generation 1) is currently available to growers for increase. Contact the PMC to order seed.



Foundation Seed Production and Availability

There were 15 different perennial grass releases under production at the PMC in 2020. Field size averaged 1-2 acres. A new linear irrigation system, with water piped from the Missouri River provided the needed moisture for grass seed production during this year of drought. Bulk seed harvests were noticeably good for 'Mandan' Canada wildrye, Tober germplasm Virginia wildrye, 'Dacotah' switchgrass, 'Tomahawk' Indiangrass and Badlands ecotype little bluestem. All 2020 harvested seed is currently being cleaned at the PMC and will be available in the spring along with previous years harvests that have been stored in a temperature and humidity-controlled cooler.

Foundation or Select Class seed is available in 2021 for most of the PMC grass releases. There are large supplies (greater than 500 pounds each) of 'Pierre' sideoats grama, Bad River ecotype blue grama, 'Forestburg' switchgrass, and Badlands ecotype little bluestem. Supplies of 'Tomahawk' Indiangrass, Canada wildrye, and 'Dacotah' switchgrass are also good.

There are limited supplies of 'Reliant', 'Manifest', and 'Manska' intermediate (pubescent) wheatgrass due to high seed demands the past few years. Seed distribution of intermediate wheatgrass cultivars in 2021 is limited to previous requests.

Forb seed is not available from the PMC in 2021. The PMC currently has no seed production fields of forb releases.

If you would like to be put on a waiting list for any releases that are unavailable in 2021, please contact the PMC. The PMC will honor seed requests when it's available for distribution.

Seed Certification

The PMC strongly encourages growers to have their production fields and produced seed certified by the Seed Certification, Crop Improvement Association or similar entity. The process involves field inspection and seed testing. Contact the Seed Certification Program in your State for details. Each plant release was selected and developed to have unique and specific traits and adaptability. Certification maintains integrity of these releases and offers customers products that meet specific germination and purity standards.

In recent years, some PMC releases followed a different method of development than the usual cultivar. These releases are eligible for certification as a Select Class (green tag) rather than the usual Certified Class (blue tag). Releases on the attached list that have ecotype or germplasm in their name are eligible for Select Class tagging. All other releases are true cultivars and are eligible for Certified tags.

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 are accessible via the web links above or from the [Bismarck PMC publications webpage](#) under the 'other publications' category. If you are aware of additional growers that should be considered for one or both lists, please contact the PMC.

Following are prices of Foundation and Select Class grass seed produced by the Bismarck PMC.



Seed Prices January 2021
Foundation and Select Class Seed
 Seed Produced by
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Plant Materials Center, Bismarck, ND

Following are prices of Foundation and Select Class grass and forb seed produced by the Bismarck Plant Materials Center (PMC). **This seed is for sale through NDSU Foundation Seedstocks to commercial seed growers for the sole purpose of certified seed production. All seed prices subject to change.**

To order seed, contact the Bismarck PMC at 701-250-4330

Lucas.Schmiesing@usda.gov phone: 701-989-6116

Nancy.Jensen@usda.gov phone: 701-989-6118

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. If payment is not received within 30 days, the order will be cancelled.** Prices are based on a Pure Live Seed (PLS) pound.

RELEASES	CLASS*	COMMON NAME	COST/PLS LB
Native Warm-Season Grasses			U. S. Dollars
Badlands ecotype	Select (G2)	little bluestem	21.00
Itasca germplasm	Select (G2)	little bluestem	25.00**
Bad River ecotype	Select (G2)	blue grama	24.00
Bison	Foundation	big bluestem	18.00
Bonilla	Foundation	big bluestem	18.00
Bounty germplasm	Select (G1)	big bluestem	18.00
Dacotah	Foundation	switchgrass	12.00
Forestburg	Foundation	switchgrass	12.00
Pierre	Foundation	sideoats grama	15.00
Red River germplasm	Select (G1)	prairie cordgrass	100.00**
Tomahawk	Foundation	Indiangrass	20.00
Native Cool-Season Grasses			
Lodorm	Foundation	green needlegrass	14.00**
Mandan	Foundation	Canada wildrye	16.00
Rodan	Foundation	western wheatgrass	12.00
Tober germplasm	Select (G1)	Virginia wildrye	16.00
Introduced Grasses			
Mankota	Foundation	Russian wildrye	16.00
Manska	Foundation	Pubescent wheatgrass	10.00
Manifest	Foundation	intermediate wheatgrass	10.00
Nordan	Foundation	Crested wheatgrass	Not Available
Reliant	Foundation	intermediate wheatgrass	Not Available
Native Forbs/Legumes			
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**