





United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Plant Materials

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Mission and Vision for the PMC Program

A Plant Materials Program functioning as the plant experts for NRCS, fully integrated and coordinated with technical and field office staff, developing and delivering vegetative solutions and conservation technology for NRCS customers.

Plant Materials Advisory Board Regions



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

MANHATTAN

PLANT MATERIALS CENTER



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

3800 South 20th Street

Providing Vegetative Solutions
to Conservation Problems





Switchgrass



Big Bluestem



Little Bluestem



Sideoats Grama



Indiangrass



'Eureka' Thick-spike Gayfeather



'Sunglo'
Greyhead Prairie Coneflower







Echinacea



Midas False Sunflower



Illinois Bundleflower



Pitcher Sage







Button Bush







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Soil Health

Goals

- Evaluate characteristics and attributes of commercially available varieties/cultivars
- Provide cover crop adaptation and growth data for different geographical regions of the U.S.
- Provide “base” information for NRCS cover crop recommendations and future studies, such as cover crop mixes
- Provide recommendations for both cropland and grazing land soil health
- Serve as a baseline for future germplasm improvement efforts



Regionally Coordinated Activity

Cover crop adaptation Trial at North Central Regional PMC's

Core plant species:

1. black oats (2)
2. crimson clover (6)
3. Austrian winterpea (8)
4. hairy vetch (5)
5. balansa clover (2)
6. rye (14)
7. red clover (8)
8. daikon radish (8)



Cover Crop Species

- **Sudangrass (4)**
- **BMR corn**
- **Winfred hybrid turnip**
- **Millet (3)**
- **Sunn hemp**
- **Flax**
- **Rapeseed**
- **Mung beans**
- **Buckwheat**
- **Turnip-purple top**
- **Sainfoin**
- **Soybeans-non GMO**
- **Safflower**
- **Radish**
- **Phacelia**
- **Cowpeas (2)**
- **Guar**
- **Oats**
- **Yellow Mustard**
- **Lentils**
- **Peas**
- **Clover (2)**
- **Ethiopian Cabbage**
- **Barley**



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Cover Crop Mix—16-way



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Available Assistance

- NRCS Technical Assistance
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Conservation Stewardship Program
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Continuous CRP
- Other Financial Assistance



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