

Rose Lake
Plant Materials Center

Fall/Winter 2008 Newsletter



Desmodium Releases Benefit from Deer Browse Protection

The Rose Lake PMC released Grant Germplasm Panicleleaf Tick-Trefoil and Alcona Germplasm Dillenius' Tick-Trefoil in 2006. Production fields of 0.1 – 0.2 acres were established for each release to provide seed to commercial producers. Seed production of the two releases in 2006 was adequate to meet the needs of commercial growers, but 2007 seed production was low due to heavy deer browse.

In the Summer 2008 newsletter we reported on efforts to alleviate deer browse by installing an exclusion fence around each production field. A 4-ft high fence, secured by “T-Posts” was placed around the fields in an attempt to exclude deer from the production area. The fence was successful at excluding deer and plant growth benefited from the lack of browsing. By mid-summer the plants were about 5-ft tall, flowering, and seed pods were beginning to form.

Seed production on those fields was also enhanced because of the deer exclusion. Seed production of each release in 2007 was less than 1 pound, but in 2008 seed production increased to over 10 pounds for each release. Seed for each of the releases is available to commercial growers in 2009. Contact NRCS Plant Materials Specialist Dave Burgdorf for information on seed availability.

Desmodium seed harvest using combine harvester



Desmodium production field protected by deer exclusion fence

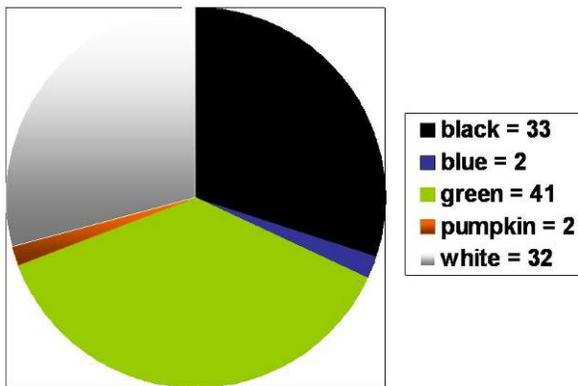
Ash Seed Collection Initiative a Success in 2008

The Rose Lake Plant Materials Program has coordinated the National Ash Seed Collection Initiative since 2005. The Initiative was in response to the devastation to Ash populations caused by the Emerald Ash Borer. Interest in the program has been strong since its introduction and 2008 was no exception. Through collection efforts of NRCS field offices, Conservation District staff, Native American tribes, and volunteers from the public the Rose Lake PMC received almost 150 Ash seed samples. After initial screening by PMC staff 110 samples were sent to the U.S. Forest Service Laboratory in Georgia for X-Ray analysis.

2008 was a good year for ash seed production which provided opportunities for collectors to send samples to the PMC. Ash seed production is not consistent from year to year. Green Ash and White Ash often produce seed every two or three years, and Black Ash will often produce seed every six to eight years.

Thank you to all who submitted Ash seed samples to the PMC as part of this important effort. Please continue to identify ash trees in your area and send samples to us in 2009. For those areas not yet affected by the Emerald Ash Borer please make an effort to identify ash stands, monitor them for seed production and send samples to the Rose Lake PMC in 2009. Information on plant identification and collection procedures is available at www.ashseed.org.

2008 Collection by Ash Species (as identified by collector, storage quantity pending)



2008 Ash Seed Collection by State (storage quantity pending)



Plant Materials Available to Commercial Growers in 2009

The Rose Lake Plant Materials Program has seed or vegetative materials from most releases available to commercial seed and plant producers in 2009.

Vegetative cuttings are available for:

‘Imperial’ Carolina poplar (*Populus canadensis*)
Riverbend Germplasm silky willow (*Salix sericea*)

Seeds are available for:

Southlow Michigan Germplasm big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*)
Southlow Michigan Germplasm little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
Southlow Michigan Germplasm indiagrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)
Southlow Michigan Germplasm switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)

Prairie View Germplasm indiagrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)
Prairie View Germplasm little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)

Icy Blue Germplasm Canada wildrye (*Elymus canadensis*)
Koch Germplasm prairie sandreed (*Calamovilfa longifolia*)

‘Lancer’ perennial pea (*Lathyrus latifolius*)
Grant Germplasm Dellinius’ tick-trefoil (*Desmodium glabellum*)
Alcona Germplasm paniced-leaf tick-trefoil (*Desmodium paniculatum*)

‘Indigo’ silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*)
‘Magenta’ hybrid crabapple (*Malus sp.*)
‘Roselow’ Sargent crabapple (*Malus sargentii*)
‘Affinity’ Northern white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*)
Leelanau Germplasm highbush cranberry (*Viburnum opulus var. americanum*)

Contact NRCS Plant Materials Specialist Dave Burgdorf for information on obtaining seed or vegetative material of those releases.



Alcona Germplasm
paniced-leaf tick
trefoil



Icy Blue Germplasm
Canada wildrye



‘Magenta’ hybrid
crabapple



‘Imperial’ Carolina
poplar



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