



Solutions for Critical Areas

Land disturbance happens when a highly developed nation grows and manufactures food, fiber, housing, roadways, and minerals. Society has long known the value of plant materials for maintaining land stability, cleaning CO² from the atmosphere, and restoring exposed surfaces to a stable condition.



Mine Reclamation

In many parts of the country, open pit mines are preparing for closure following mineral or precious metal extraction. Plant Materials Centers (PMCs) cooperate with public and private partners to revegetate mined areas using plants tested for a full spectrum of harsh soils and climatic conditions. We recommend seeding mixes and the necessary technology to reclaim these areas with plants. When possible, we plant native species that promote biodiversity, wildlife habitat, and beauty.



Roadways

Reclaiming roads that are no longer in use and revegetating the exposed soil along new interstate highways are ongoing challenges. PMCs work with local, state, and federal transportation departments to choose and establish plant species along highways and medians that stabilize the soil and beautify the roadside but do not attract undue hazards, such as wildlife, onto the road.



Timber Harvest

Timber removal processes can oftentimes result in severe soil disturbance, particularly in areas of concentrated activity. Revegetation becomes a priority as soon after tree harvest as possible. Because forests are typically on sloping or mountainous terrain, with favorable precipitation, agency permits normally require extensive and intensive reclamation processes. PMCs actively select and test plant materials for repairing disturbances related to timber harvest. We cooperate with timber companies and land management agencies to design native plant mixes and the planting technology conducive to soil stabilization and a healthy forest environment.

For more information, visit <http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov> and <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>