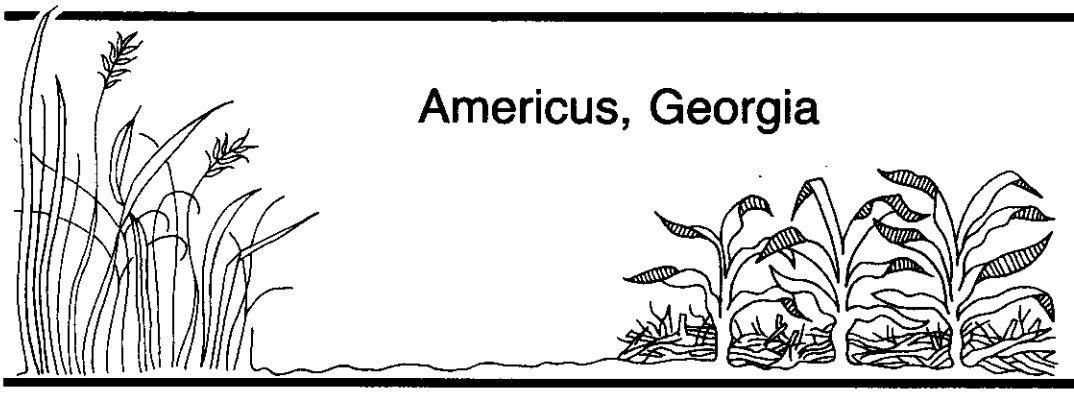
FACT SHEET

Americus Plant Materials Center



Americus, Georgia

United States Department of Agriculture

Soil Conservation Service

January 1988

Purpose

The Americus Plant Materials Center (PMC) is part of a national plant materials program operated by the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS). The purpose of the PMC is to assemble, evaluate and release new plant materials for conservation use.

The Americus PMC serves Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee and parts of North Florida. These states present a wide range of climatic and soil conditions.

The Center serves a total of 13 major land resource areas (MLRA's) which represent 120,377,913 acres across the Southeastern United States.

History

The Americus PMC was established in 1936 to produce planting material, mainly pine seedlings, for use by the CCC Camps and the former SCS demonstration projects. It is located four miles northwest of Americus, Georgia. The site was originally rented, but was purchased by the Federal Government in 1942.

The Center contains seven soil types, with Orangeburg predominating on its 327.39 acres. Approximately two-thirds of the land is open for cultivation. Muckalee Creek runs through the southwest corner, furnishing water for irrigation.

The Center was operated on contract by the University of Georgia Experiment Stations from 1954 to 1975. The SCS has operated the Center since 1976.

Conservation Problems and Priorities

There are over 120 million acres of land in the MLRA's served by the Americus PMC. To guide the activities of the PMC, a 5-year long-range program is developed. In 1985 this program was revised and identified these high priority projects:

1. Legumes to be used in conservation tillage.
2. Plants for conversion of marginal cropland to less intensive uses.
3. Plants for establishing waterways, water disposal areas and similar critical areas on cropland.
4. Plants to control gully erosion on cropland.

PMC Facilities

The real property holdings at the facility consist of 327.39 acres of land with 15 buildings, an underground irrigation system that covers about 85 acres, a water supply system, and a sewage disposal system. The facility was established in 1936, and some of the buildings constructed at that time are still in use.

Formal Releases

The Americus PMC has released the following plants for conservation use:

GRASSES

Common Name	Scientific Name
'Dove' Prosco Millet	Panicum miliaceum
'Pensacola' Bahiagrass	Paspalum notatum

LEGUMES AND FORBS

Common Name	Scientific Name
'Ambro' Virgata lespedeza	Lespedeza virgata
'Amclo' Arrowleaf clover	Trifolium vesiculosum
'Amquail' Thunberg lespedeza	Lespedeza thunbergii

WOODY

Common Name	Scientific Name
'Ellagood' Autumn olive	Elaeagnus umbellata

Informal Releases

GRASSES

Common Name	Scientific Name
'Nakura' Rescuegrass	Bromus unioloides
'Asheville' Tall fescue	Festuca arundinacea
'Tombigbee' Chickencorn	Sorghum bicolor
'Wild' Sudangrass	Sorghum sudanense

LEGUMES AND FORBS

Common Name	Scientific Name
'Dadeville' Yellow vetch	Vicia lutea

WOODY

Common Name	Scientific Name
'Athens' Sawtooth oak	Quercus acutissima

Proposed Releases

GRASSES

Common Name	Scientific Name
Marshhay cordgrass	Spartina patens
Fescue	Festuca arundinacea

Outside Utilization of PMC

The following is a partial list of groups that have toured the Center in the last two years:

Group	Purpose
Alabama Area Conservationists	Review Plant Materials (PM) program for Ala/Ga
Alabama SCS Principal Staff	Tour projects at PMC
Erosion & Sediment Control Workshop Training	Update the role of PM in erosion control
Georgia DNR Biologists	Examine wildlife plants
Georgia PM Committee	PM Committee Meetings
Local District Conservationists	Legume training
Mississippi PM Personnel	Review PMC operations
South NTC Biologist	Biology study of PMC
Stephens Co. Dist. Youth Board	Update on PMC collections
Sumter County 4th Grade	School field trip
Sumter Co. High School Students	"Career Awareness Week"
Tuskeegee University	Review Conservation structures at PMC
UGA Researchers	Evaluate possible road bank plants
Wildlife Extension Specialist	Update on PMC collection

Major Assemblies and Evaluations

Since 1983 to present, the PMC has assembled and evaluated the following major plant groups:

Scientific Name	Common Name
Trifolium nigrescens	Ball clover
Trifolium incarnatum	Crimson clover
Trifolium subterraneum	Sub clover
Lathyrus hirsutus	Caley pea
Vicia villosa	Hairy vetch
Vicia sativa	Common vetch
Vicia angustifolia	Narrowleaf vetch
Vicia grandiflora	Bigflower vetch
Medicago hispida	Bur clover
Medicago orbicularis	Button clover
Coronilla varia	Crownvetch
Panicum virgatum	Switchgrass
Sorghastrum nutans	Indiangrass
Festuca arundinacea	Tall fescue
Elymus virginicus	Virginia wildrye
Paspalum nicorae	Brunswickgrass
Spartina patens	Marshhay cordgrass
Lupinus angustifolius	Blue lupine
Paspalum monstachyum	Shoredune paspalum

Cooperators

The Americus PMC has conducted cooperative programs with the following organizations:

Alabama Agricultural Experiment Stations
Alabama Crop Improvement Association
Auburn University
Fort Valley State College
Georgia Agricultural Experiment Stations
Georgia Crop Improvement Association
Georgia Department of Transportation
Georgia Seed Development Commission
Jekyll Island Authority
Tuskeegee Institute
University of Georgia
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

PMC Staff

The staff at the PMC includes a center manager, assistant manager, biological technician/secretary, two gardeners, and a plant materials specialist (headquartered in Athens).

USDA NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

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To arrange tours and other activities at the PMC, contact the center manager at Route 6, Box 417, Morris Drive, Americus, GA 31709, phone (912) 924-2286.

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