

## **Native Plant Propagation for National Parks**

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Since 1989, an interagency agreement between the National Park Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service has led to an exchange of technical information and the development of indigenous plant materials, new seed /plant propagation technologies and revegetation methodologies for National Park revegetation projects. The agreement provides assistance to National Parks through NRCS Plant Materials Centers (PMC) to: identify plant species needed; collect and process native seed; provide high quality custom grown container plants and field production of native forb and grass seed from site specific collections; ensure genetic integrity and provide technical assistance on site preparation, plant establishment, weed control and seed collection and processing. In the past 12 years the program has: assisted 45 National Parks with nearly 100 projects in cooperation with 12 Plant Materials Centers; tested over 1,400 native species and developed successful propagation techniques for more than 700 species; produced approximately 20,000 PLS pounds of grass/forb seed and 520,000 tree/shrub seedlings; developed computer tools and a guide to assist in seeding rate/mixture and specification development and published a manual that summarizes the propagation technology for over 200 native species. The native plant propagation manual is in the process of being revised and placed on an Internet website.

(<http://nativeplants.for.uidaho.edu/>)