

Who We Are:

The 405 acre Plant Materials Center (PMC), near Palmer was established by the Alaska Legislature in 1972 to promote the state's agricultural industry. Grains, grasses, fruits, potatoes, shrubs, and trees are evaluated for the potential use in Alaska climates. Small quantities of these plant materials are released to Alaskan commercial growers who then increase the production of these materials and make them available for food, ornamental, and conservation purposes.

What We Do:

Horticulture
Invasive Plant Management
Pathology
Publications and Outreach
Potato Production
Revegetation
Seed Production
Soil Conservation



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Alaska Plant Materials Center

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Directions:

From Anchorage: Take Glenn Highway north. Merge right onto Old Glenn Highway exit for 11.2 miles. Turn left onto Bodenbug Loop at the flashing yellow light. In 2.4 miles turn left onto Bodenbug Spur. The Plant Materials Center is 0.7 miles on the right.



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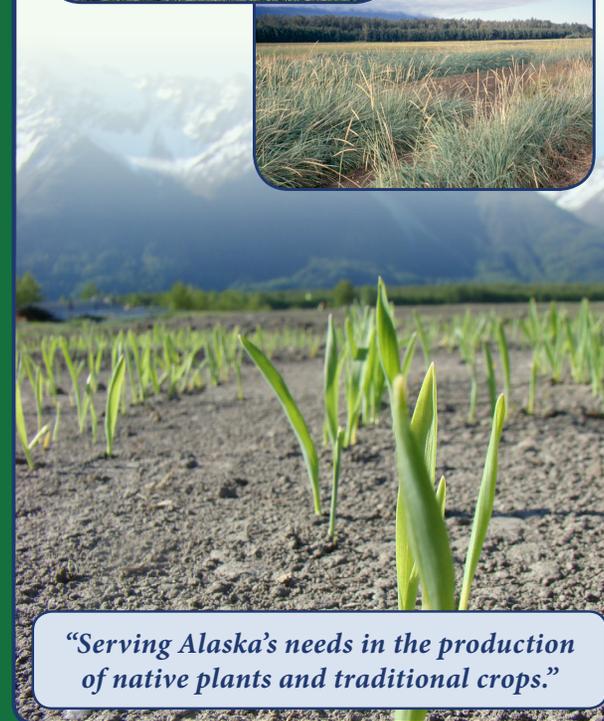
State of Alaska



Division of Agriculture
Alaska Department of Natural Resources



The Alaska Plant Materials Center (PMC) provides testing, production, development, and distribution of materials to meet environmental requirements and promote commercial development of native species.



"Serving Alaska's needs in the production of native plants and traditional crops."

Plant Materials Center Programs

Horticulture

The Horticulture Evaluation Program was established at the Plant Materials Center in 2012 to develop new techniques for commercial plant production of horticultural crops in Alaska. These techniques for producing fruits, cut flowers, vegetables and ornamental crops will be of value to commercial plant producers and end users in Alaska. The evaluation of pesticides and their use for commercial production is also conducted.



Invasive Plant Management

The Invasive Plant Program coordinates prevention, outreach, and management strategies for invasive plant issues through collaboration with land managers, agencies, organizations, and policy makers across Alaska. These efforts are guided by the implementation of a Strategic Plan and relevant noxious weed regulation and policy. The goal is to help keep Alaska's pristine landscapes and natural resources free from impacts of noxious and invasive plants.



Pathology

The Plant Pathology Laboratory provides diagnostic services and disease management support to the PMC and the Division of Agriculture. Information is gathered on disease resistance and management during variety trials. Program staff also provides outreach to growers around the state, including disease surveys, diagnostics, and management recommendations.



Potato Production

The Potato Program provides quality seed potatoes to commercial growers that are varietally pure and relatively free from disease causing organisms. Seed provided by the PMC is used as the initial stock for a multiple year certified seed production scheme. The PMC produces and maintains over 150 varieties — 44 varieties are unique to Alaska and not available elsewhere.



Publications and Outreach

The PMC produces newsletters, media releases, technical reports, fact sheets, brochures, and other graphic materials and provides outreach support and website management for the Division of Agriculture. These materials are made available to the agricultural industry, the public, and funding agencies.



Seed Production

The PMC supplies high quality, low generation (foundation seed class) seed to agricultural producers that is well-suited to Alaska's climate and soils. Foundation seed is made available during an annual seed sale hosted by the PMC.



Revegetation

The Revegetation Program is involved in the production of native plant material, reclamation research, and revegetation technology. Program priorities include trialing, evaluating, and releasing selected native plants that are well-adapted to Alaska's many climates and are suited for commercial production and revegetation projects statewide. The PMC maintains collections in conjunction with the UAF and USDA ARS and NRCS.



Soil Conservation

The Soil Conservation Program provides site-specific technical assistance for the protection of soil resources including seeding mixtures, plant material options, field implementation, and monitoring. Program staff works with government agencies, contractors, land users, and the general public to ensure project success.

