

State of Alaska FY2002 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Natural Resources
North Latitude Plant Material Center
Component

Component: North Latitude Plant Material Center

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Component Mission

The North Latitude Plant Materials Center (PMC) promotes Alaska-produced agricultural crops for use in revegetation and seed production. The facility encourages the wise use of adapted species for crop production and revegetation.

Component Services Provided

The North Latitude Plant Materials Center provides testing, production, development, and distribution of materials to resource industries to meet environmental requirements that include the development of a native seed industry. They also provide cost-effective practices and testing, production, and distribution of disease-free seed potatoes and plant materials to the produce and forage industries. The PMC provides native and introduced seed for research and industry through the Germplasm Repository. The potato and seed industries encompass the production of seed potatoes and native plant seed and are a healthy sector of Alaska agriculture. The industry employs more than 500 people in Alaska. Both potato and grass seed production are expected to increase. Local grass seed is expected to capture 40% of the market.

The North Latitude Plant Materials Center is recognized as the authority on reclamation, revegetation, wetland rehabilitation and commercialization of native species through release of new crops and expands on the more basic research undertaken at the University of Alaska to answer real life questions. For example, potato improvement research was initiated when plummeting yields and an outbreak of pathogens caused growers to request the PMC's help in developing a reliable source of clean potato seed. As a result of this program, virus infection rates have dropped from 100 to 10 percent. The dramatic success of the project has made Alaska a possible seed potato exporter as well.

Through a program of systematic evaluation throughout the state, data on revegetation is collected and distributed by way of reports. This data on plant performance is also used to develop new commercial crops for Alaska promotion. In addition to new native crops designed for rehabilitation and reclamation, breeder seed and foundation seed of traditional grasses and grain are also produced for later sale to commercial seed producers for further multiplication and sale. Cost effective rehabilitation techniques are also developed in using the plant materials. Solutions to common rehabilitation techniques are also developed and found. Forty-seven species are currently being tested. In 1996, the production of breeder seed of all University of Alaska developed grass varieties had been transferred to the PMC. This makes the program the sole germplasm source for the State of Alaska.

Component Goals and Strategies

The North Latitude Plant Materials Center (PMC) will promote Alaska produced agricultural crops for use in revegetation and seed production. The facility will encourage the wise use of adapted species for crop production and revegetation.

The PMC will assist all aspects of commercial development in Alaska needing adapted crops, revegetation material, applied research and appropriate, cost-effective technology. The PMC also assists the USDA/ARS in the operation of the Arctic Germplasm Repository.

- Encourage private seed producers to grow certified, registered, and in some cases, foundation native seed.
- Develop cost-effective reclamation techniques for industry and develop supplies of native seed needed by industry.
- Maintain forty-seven accessions of seed and thirty potato varieties.
- Develop new cultivars of needed species.
- Test, produce and distribute disease-free seed stock.
- Develop cost-effective production practices.

- Assist industry in compliance of environmental regulations in revegetation and erosion control.
- Provide seed industry and seed users with northern latitude adapted species.
- Increase stocks of foundation seed and grass for commercial production.
- Provide the basic seed needs for Alaska agriculture.
- Develop techniques for cleaning seed.
- Transfer knowledge to end users through demonstration and education programs.
- Market seed through specifications.
- Encourage private seed producers to grow certified, registered, and in some cases, foundation seed.
- Cooperatively develop reclamation techniques with industry.
- Develop supplies of native seed needed by industry and produced by industry.
- Attempt to establish an APHIS Animal Plant Health Inspection Service Quarantine Station in Alaska.

Key Component Issues for FY2001 – 2002

Lack of General Funds to perform services and responsibilities and continued use of Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund source creates a long-term negative impact on the ARLF program.

Major Component Accomplishments for FY2000

Economic returns: In 1999, the PMC secured federal funding to assist in developing a strong native seed industry in Alaska. This is expected to be a five-year program.

The Northern Latitude Plant Materials Center provides seed that produces within Alaskan climate conditions. Alaskan seed growers have acquired the needed seed and seed potatoes from the Plant Materials Center during the last year. The PMC has also provided new native seed to the producers thereby increasing the variety of material available to commercial growers and expanding the market for their products. None of this material is being produced outside of Alaska giving the instate producers a competitive advantage. Many contractors have been involved in the seed developed by the PMC. This last year has been no exception. Alyeska Pipeline Company, Cominco and countless smaller companies have utilized the PMC's talent in restoration and revegetation issues. The PMC will continue to work with industry as it has in the past twenty years assuring users that plant material and technology needed for sound development will be available. In the last FY the PMC established new breeder blocks of the important revegetation species, including Polar Brome, a species not available for the last ten years.

The PMC has also secured continued federal funding from Agricultural Research Service, and the U.S. Army. Initial contacts have been made with Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and National Science Foundation (NSF) for additional funding. These could at long last result in the establishment of a Quarantine Station in Alaska and, funding for increased circumpolar plant material exchange and acquisition. The PMC has in the last year expanded its international cooperation with the Falkland Islands and Northern Ireland. The PMC was also a major cooperator in the Late Blight control effort last year.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 03.22

Key Performance Measures for FY2002

Measure: The number of improved crop accessions produced by the plant material center and grown on farms in the state.

(Revised from Legislature's FY2000 version.)

Current Status:

The Plant Materials Center (PMC) documents field plantings and records planting sites. We also list sales and production in the annual report. The PMC tests and develops new crops for industry. We have and have had an

extensive program in new crop development. This is the basic purpose of the PMC. By doing demonstration projects, we market commercial production. By developing revegetation specifications, we market seed produced in Alaska. We are the state's repository for Alaska developed crops.

New crop collections grown on the PMC are 52 in initial stage, 12 in the intermediate stage and 14 in the final stage. Grown at the PMC Nursery are 18 in research stage. Potatoes - 224 varieties are maintained on PMC soil, 86 varieties are in tissue culture, 44 varieties are in greenhouse production and 104 varieties were sold to producers. Grain - 26 varieties.

Background and Strategies:

The word "new" was replaced by "improved". Eventually we will reach a point where nothing is "new", only improved. The word "variety" was replaced by "accessions". Variety is a specific term describing a specifically named variety.

Status of FY2001 Performance Measures

	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>On track</i>	<i>Too soon to tell</i>	<i>Not likely to achieve</i>	<i>Needs modification</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of improved crop accessions produced by the plant material center and grown on farms in the state. • To encourage private seed producers to grow registered, and in some cases, foundation seed. • Cooperatively develop reclamation techniques with industry. • Develop supplies of native seed needed by industry and produced by industry. • Produce forty-seven certified seed varieties and maintain thirty potato varieties. 		X			
		X			
		X			
		X			
		X			

North Latitude Plant Material Center
Component Financial Summary

All dollars in thousands

	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	784.1	1,083.3	1,491.3
72000 Travel	29.7	103.0	81.0
73000 Contractual	206.7	213.6	185.8
74000 Supplies	122.0	114.0	106.0
75000 Equipment	50.4	316.0	271.0
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	1,192.9	1,829.9	2,135.1
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	642.1	1,163.5	1,471.5
1005 General Fund/Program Receipts	14.0	14.5	14.5
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	3.9	69.4	67.7
1021 Agricultural Loan Fund	501.6	523.4	522.0
1061 Capital Improvement Project Receipts	24.6	0.0	0.0
1108 Statutory Designated Program Receipts	6.7	59.1	59.4
Funding Totals	1,192.9	1,829.9	2,135.1

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2001 Cash Estimate	FY2002 Governor	FY2003 Forecast
Unrestricted Revenues						
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Revenues						
Federal Receipts	51010	642.1	1,163.5	1,013.5	1,471.5	1,360.0
Interagency Receipts	51015	3.9	69.4	5.9	67.7	69.4
General Fund Program Receipts	51060	14.0	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5
Statutory Designated Program Receipts	51063	6.7	59.1	31.2	59.4	59.1
Capital Improvement Project Receipts	51200	24.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Total		691.3	1,306.5	1,065.1	1,613.1	1,503.0
Total Estimated Revenues		691.3	1,306.5	1,065.1	1,613.1	1,503.0

North Latitude Plant Material Center

Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2002

Increment in federal funding for a new programs at the North Latitude Plant Material Center.

The United States Cold Regions Plant Materials Evaluation Network \$300.0, will be responsible for the acquisition, storage and evaluation of plant material/seed of plants indigenous to regions north of the 52 degrees North Latitude and equivalent vegetated regions in the southern hemisphere. A national systematic and uniform trial program does not exist for cold region plants.

The Alaska Post Entry Plant Quarantine Facility will allow for controlled examination, evaluation and phytosanitary inspection of prohibited and otherwise restricted plant material primarily from circumpolar regions. This will be accomplished under growing conditions to which the plant materials were adapted.

Summary of Component Budget Changes

From FY2001 Authorized to FY2002 Governor

All dollars in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2001 Authorized	14.5	1,163.5	651.9	1,829.9
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Year 2 Labor Costs - Net Change from FY2001	0.0	8.0	-2.8	5.2
Proposed budget increases:				
-U. S. Cold Regions Plant Materials Evaluation Network	0.0	300.0	0.0	300.0
FY2002 Governor	14.5	1,471.5	649.1	2,135.1

North Latitude Plant Material Center

Personal Services Information

Authorized Positions			Personal Services Costs	
	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor		
Full-time	7	13	Annual Salaries	1,093,177
Part-time	18	23	COLA	21,043
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	0
			Annual Benefits	437,824
			<i>Less 3.91% Vacancy Factor</i>	(60,744)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	25	36	Total Personal Services	1,491,300

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Clerk II	0	0	0	1	1
Administrative Clerk III	0	0	0	1	1
Agronomist I	0	0	0	10	10
Agronomist II	0	0	0	2	2
Agronomist III	0	0	0	1	1
Equip Operator Journey I	0	0	0	1	1
Maint Gen Journey	0	0	0	2	2
Maint Gen Sub - Journey I	0	0	0	16	16
Maint Gen Sub - Journey II	0	0	0	1	1
Maint Spec Bfc Jrny II/Lead	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	0	0	0	36	36