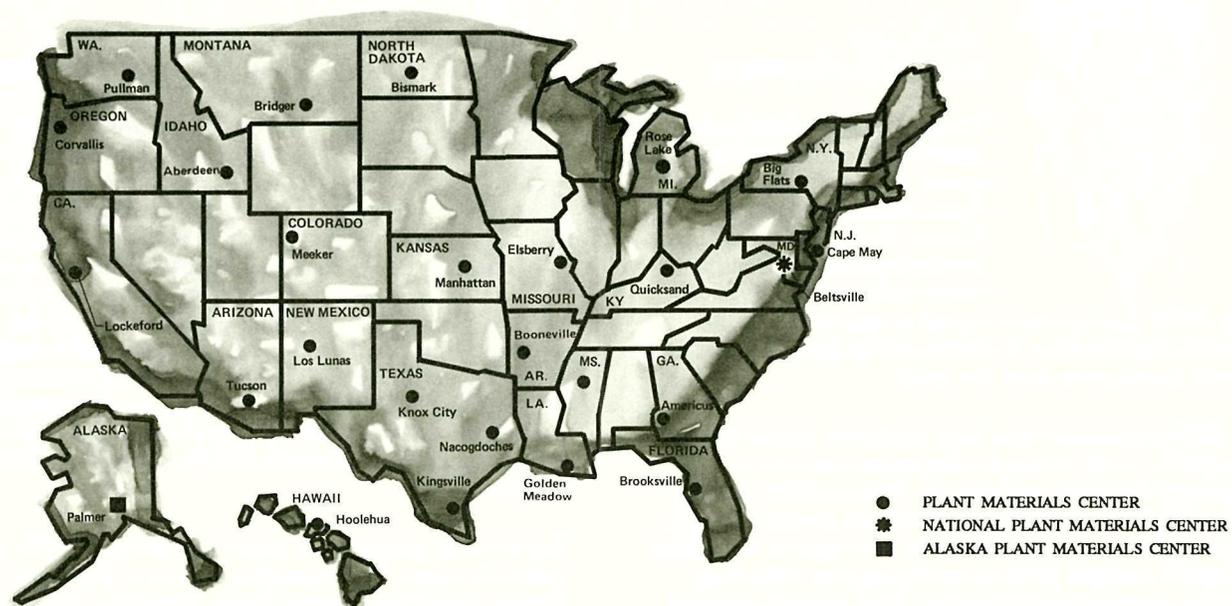


# NATIVE PLANTS FOR PARKS



SCS PLANT MATERIALS CENTERS

## SCS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Under the cooperative agreement the Soil Conservation Service may also supply technical assistance directly to park managers. Each state SCS office has specialists who can assist with information about adapted plants, the best seed sources, and the availability of specific species. They can also provide information about standards and specifications used on critical areas as well as seed quality standards. This expertise exchange will result in better success with NPS revegetation projects.

## REQUESTING ASSISTANCE (NPS Pilot Program)

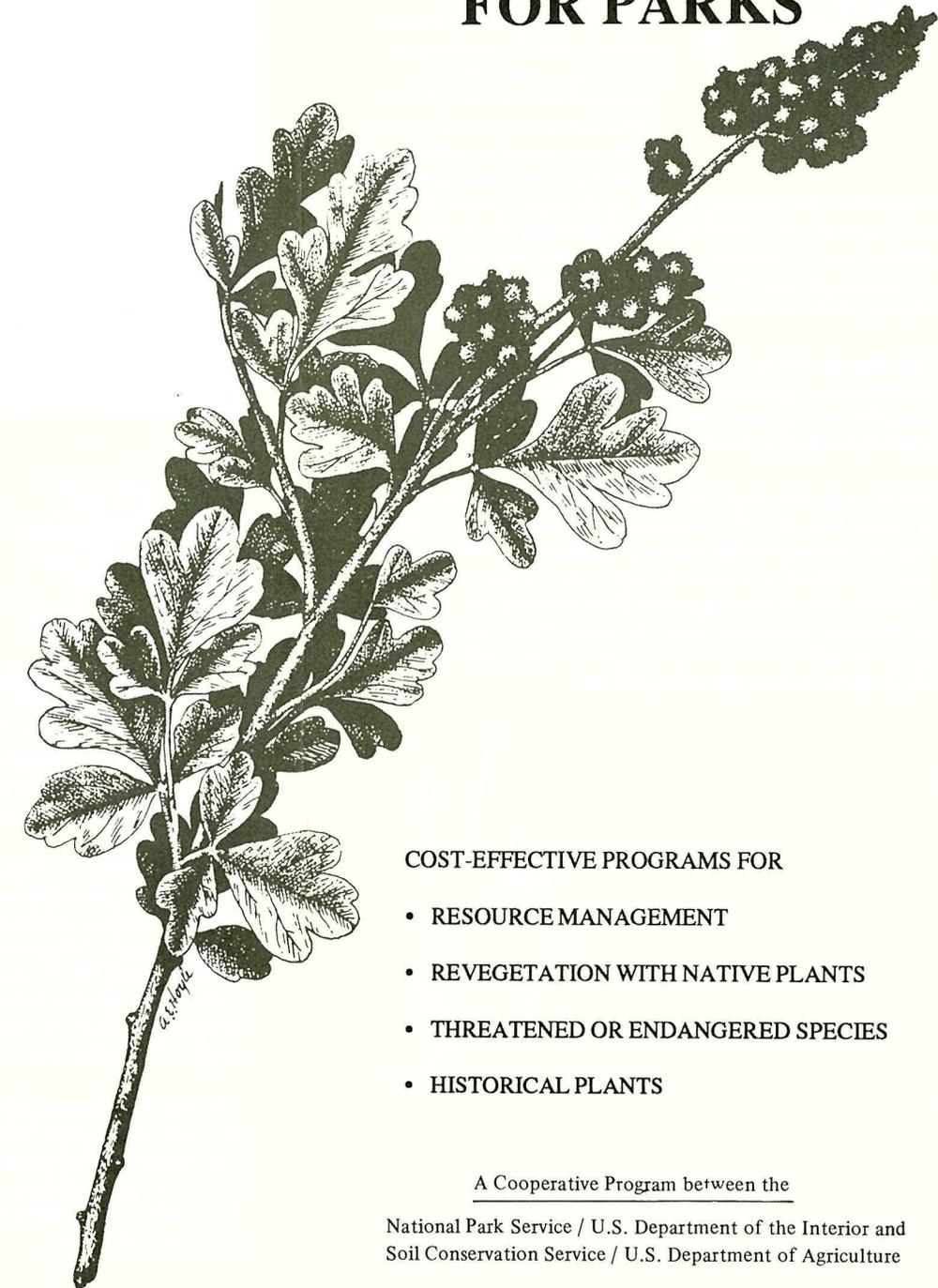
The pilot phase of this program (scheduled to last through 1990) will deal with projects under the federal lands highway program (FLHP), which are administered for the National Park Service by the Denver Service Center (DSC). To request assistance to establish a plant materials agreement for a FLHP-funded road revegetation project, contact the DSC FLHP project managers or their staff members early in the project's advance planning phase. This contact must then be followed by a memorandum to the regional director (with a copy to the regional FLHP coordinator) and copies to the appropriate DSC team manager and the NPS technical advisor.

## DSC FLHP Project Managers:

- **Eastern Team**  
North Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic,  
and National Capital Regions  
FTS 756-6774  
Southeast Region  
FTS 327-2400
- **Central Team**  
FTS 327-2300
- **Western Team**  
FTS 327-2200

## Technical Assistance:

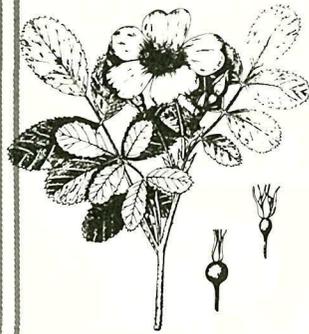
- **NPS Technical Advisor**  
Denver Service Center  
FTS 327-2310
- **SCS National Plant Materials Specialist**  
Washington, D.C.  
FTS 447-5667
- **SCS Technical Advisor**  
Denver, Colorado  
(303) 236-2913



## COST-EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS FOR

- RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
- REVEGETATION WITH NATIVE PLANTS
- THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES
- HISTORICAL PLANTS

A Cooperative Program between the  
National Park Service / U.S. Department of the Interior and  
Soil Conservation Service / U.S. Department of Agriculture



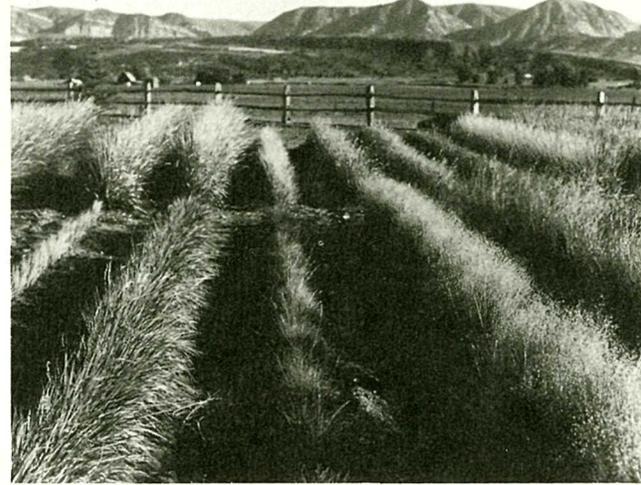
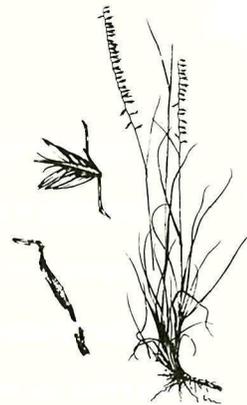
## INTRODUCTION

Ensuring the integrity of vegetative ecosystems within national parks is becoming an increasing concern for the National Park Service (NPS). Construction, maintenance, and visitor use activities within parks result in disturbances to soil and

vegetation. To maintain natural conditions in parks, NPS managers face the challenges of controlling or arresting erosion and of blending revegetated areas with the existing landscape, while maintaining genetic integrity and preventing the introduction of exotic species.

The National Park Service is also concerned with the preservation of threatened or endangered species and with using historical plant materials to perpetuate or re-create period plantings at historic sites.

For the past few years the National Park Service has been working with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) to find ways to meet these challenges. On March 14, 1989, the two agencies signed a cooperative agreement to share technical expertise and to develop native plant materials for use in park revegetation programs. Until the end of fiscal year 1990 the program will be in a pilot phase, and projects will focus on major park road construction projects.

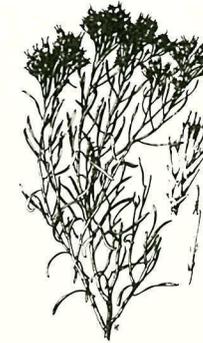


## HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

The SCS plant materials program is a nationwide program that can help provide genetic strains of plant materials that are native to an individual park. By working with the plant materials center located in the most appropriate climatic and topographic region, each park now has a cost-effective means for evaluating plant materials and meeting vegetation resource management needs.

To use the plant materials program, park managers will identify what plant species are needed for revegetation projects. Seeds or plants will then be collected in the park and sent to a nearby SCS plant materials center. At the center the seeds or plants will be planted, nurtured, and reproduced for two to three growing seasons. The center will ensure that the original genetic characteristics are preserved, and the plants or seeds will then be returned to the park for planting.

After the development of the seed stock or plants, the Soil Conservation Service will continue to be involved in the vegetation recovery program by supplying technical assistance on how to use the plants – when to plant, soil preparation, fertilization, weed and insect control, irrigation, and processing of seed.



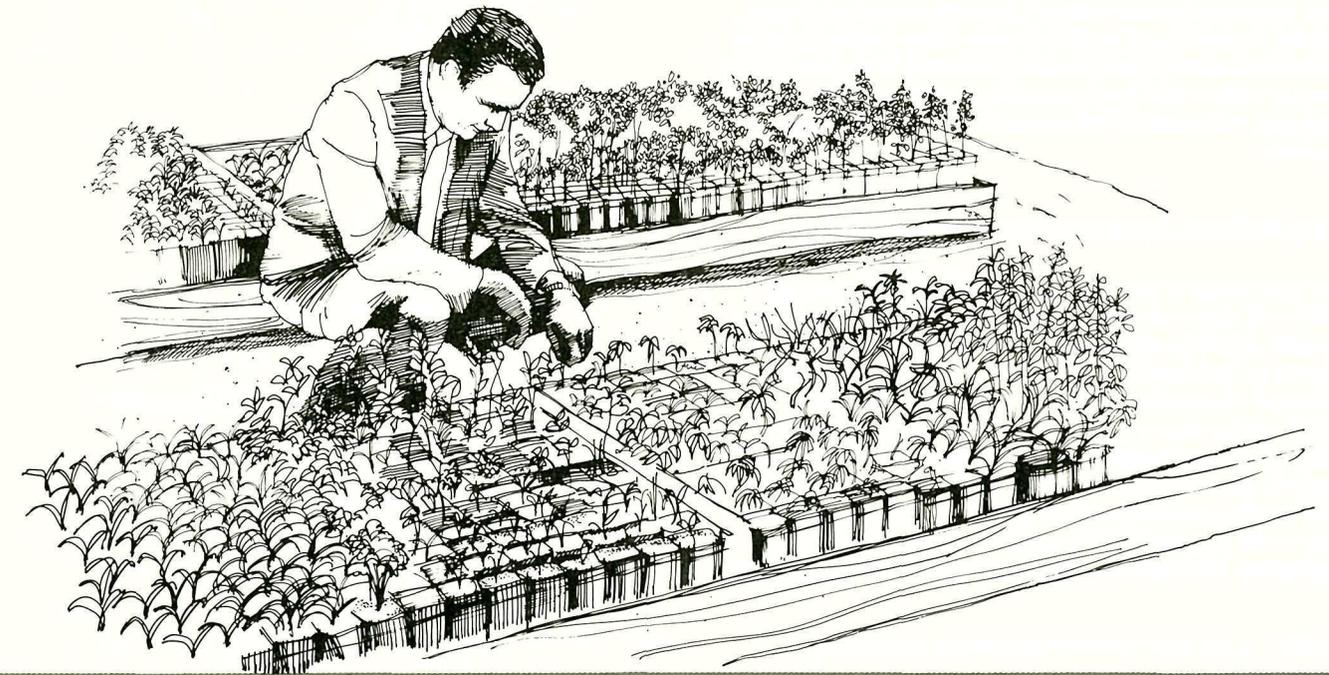
## SCS PLANT MATERIALS CENTERS

The Soil Conservation Service maintains 26 plant materials centers throughout the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii. These centers have been developing plant materials for conservation programs since the

early 1930s. Each center is located to take advantage of common characteristics of climate, topography, and soils in parts of two or more states (see map).

The SCS program screens a large number of species used in revegetation work. Selected ecotypes are increased as technology develops, and seeds are made available for field testing. High standards of seed quality and genetic integrity are guaranteed by isolating fields for each species. Computers are used to maintain accurate records on plant collections, varieties, and species viability tests. Each center is equipped with seed-cleaning facilities to handle a wide variety of native plants and to produce high-quality, weed-free seeds and transplants.

Some centers work with native threatened or endangered species that may potentially be used in various conservation programs. Eventually the centers will be able to supply plants that existed in historical settings but that are currently limited to a specific historic site.



## CURRENT NPS/SCS REVEGETATION PROJECTS

This cooperative NPS/SCS program can provide field managers with another tool for revegetation work that is required as a part of construction projects, and at the same time save money. Instead of developing a plant propagation facility at each park

or even at a couple of parks, which would require a considerable capital investment, a specific park's needs can be handled at an existing SCS plant materials center on a cost-sharing basis. Project costs to date are approximately one tenth of what it costs to have plant materials developed under alternative methods.

Experimental programs are currently underway at SCS plant materials centers for revegetation projects at Big Bend, Glacier, Grand Teton, Great Smoky Mountains, Olympic, Yellowstone, and Yosemite national parks.