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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Division of Agriculture

Alaska Plant Materials Center announces annual seed sale of Native Alaskan Grass and Forbs, and Foundation Grains for Alaska Growers.

The Alaska Plant Materials Center (PMC) is announcing its annual open request period for foundation seeds of grass, grain, and forbs. The sale runs from April 8 - 23, 2010. The list of the available seed lots, including quantities, varieties, and prices will be posted on the Division of Agriculture and Plant Materials Center's web pages (<http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/> and http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/ag_pmc.htm). The seed is available at the PMC located at 5310 South Bodenbug Spur in the Butte, Palmer, Alaska.

The PMC produces "foundation and pre-certified" classes of seed which in turn are sold to commercial growers. The growers then produce "certified seed" which eventually is sold to farmers, landscape companies, revegetation contractors, or construction companies. The PMC is also offering more forbs than it has in the past due to the demand in the public sector for flowers and landscape plants native to Alaska.

Often demand may exceed the available supply of seeds. If this were to happen the Allocation Committee which consists of: the Director of the Division of Agriculture; a representative of the University of Alaska, Agriculture and Forestry Experiment Station; a representative of the Alaska Seed Growers Association; and a representative of the PMC will determine the allocation.

A second open request period will be held in August 2010. Seed that was not available in April may be available during this second period.

Everyone involved in farming and agriculture looks forward to spring and the start of a new growing season. The PMC's annual announcement of the availability of foundation seeds is another milestone in that process, providing high-quality seed that is well suited to Alaska's climate and soils.

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