

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
375 Jackson Street, Suite 600
St. Paul, MN 55101-1854

*Helping People
Help the Land*

Phone: (651) 602-7900
FAX: (651) 602-7914

Transmitted via Email

January 8, 2007

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 190-7-6

SUBJECT: ECS – RELEASE AND REVIEW OF WETLAND MONOCOT PLANT ID KEY
FOR WETLAND IDENTIFICATION AND DELINEATION

Actions Required By: June 15 and 22, 2007

Purpose. To announce the availability of an electronic plant identification key for U.S. wetland monocots for review and use.

Expiration Date. June 29, 2007

Background. Plant identification is an important and routinely used skill by NRCS field personnel. A beta wetland monocot plant identification data set has been produced in collaboration with the Missouri Botanical Garden to assist the field with wetland plant identification and delineation. The data have been placed in SLIKS freeware that has received CCE approval for use on NRCS computers. This key is known as a polyclave, or multiple-entry key, as opposed to the type of key (dichotomous) that one finds in a typical flora. It permits you to use many characters at any one time to filter the choices remaining in the key.

Explanation. The Wetland Monocot key can be used two ways: On-line or downloaded. Your computer must be connected to the internet to have access to all links used in the application. Both an on-line version and a downloadable version are available at the following URL:
http://npdc.usda.gov/technical/plantid_wetland_mono.html.

So that the data and tool may be improved to better serve the field, employees involved in wetland identification and delineation are encouraged to use the Wetland Monocot Plant ID key to test its accuracy for their area. **Please provide comments on the data or the key to your Area Resource Conservationist (ARC) by June 15, 2007. ARCs will compile comments and send to Paul Flynn, State Resource Conservationist by June 22, 2007.**

/s/

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

DIST: AO
FO
ARC
Sid Cornelius, Wetland Biologist, NRCS, St. Paul, MN
Mark Oja, State Biologist, NRCS, St. Paul, MN