

United States Department of Agriculture



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MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 190-8-21

SUBJECT: ECS – PLANT MATERIALS PUBLICATIONS

Purpose. To inform offices of these publications

Expiration Date. September 30, 2008.

Under separate cover, area offices will be receiving copies of three new publications that were created by the Bismarck Plant Materials Center. These publications are Big Bluestem Biomass Trials in ND, SD, and MN, 'McKenzie' Black Chokeberry brochure, and the 'Prairie Red' Plum brochure. These should be distributed to your field offices as you wish. Additional copies of these publications can be obtained by contacting the Bismarck PMC directly.

Both shrubs are suitable for Minnesota conservation practices. 'McKenzie' black chokeberry is suitable for wildlife plantings for birds (they will consume the berries in late winter), as well as for pollinators, and for a shrub row in windbreaks. It performs best on well-drained to moderately well-drained soils with silty or loamy textures. Plant this shrub on soils in Conservation Tree and Shrub Groups (CTSGs) 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 that are not flooded or wet, or excessively well-drained or droughty. This shrub will have its best performance in Area 3 and the north metro counties of Area 4, but will have adequate growth and survival when planted in suitable conditions throughout the state. You can find 'McKenzie' black chokeberry in nurseries under the trade name "Aroniaberry". The scientific name is *Aronia melanocarpa* var. 'McKenzie' or *Photinia melanocarpa* var. 'McKenzie'.

'Prairie Red' hybrid plum is suitable throughout Minnesota; the origin of this particular variety was collected in South Dakota. This shrub will perform best on soils in CTSG 1 and 3 with silt-loam textures, but could also be used in CTSG 4, 5 and 6; do not plant in wet or flooded soils. Use this shrub for upland wildlife plantings for food and cover, including nectar for pollinators; and as a shrub row in windbreaks for adding wildlife benefits. The fruit is edible and suitable for jellies and wines. The scientific name for this shrub is *Prunus americana* var. 'Prairie Red'.

Additional questions may be directed to Robin Martinek, State Agronomist at (651) 602-7866.

/s/

WILLIAM HUNT  
State Conservationist

Dist: AO, DC, ECS

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